All new stories—complete in this issue!

Bride of HEAVY METAL®

$3.50

WPS 38340-08

Retailer:
Display until
Sept. 24, 1985

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Cover, by Pamela Lee

Compiled by the staff of *Heavy Metal* magazine

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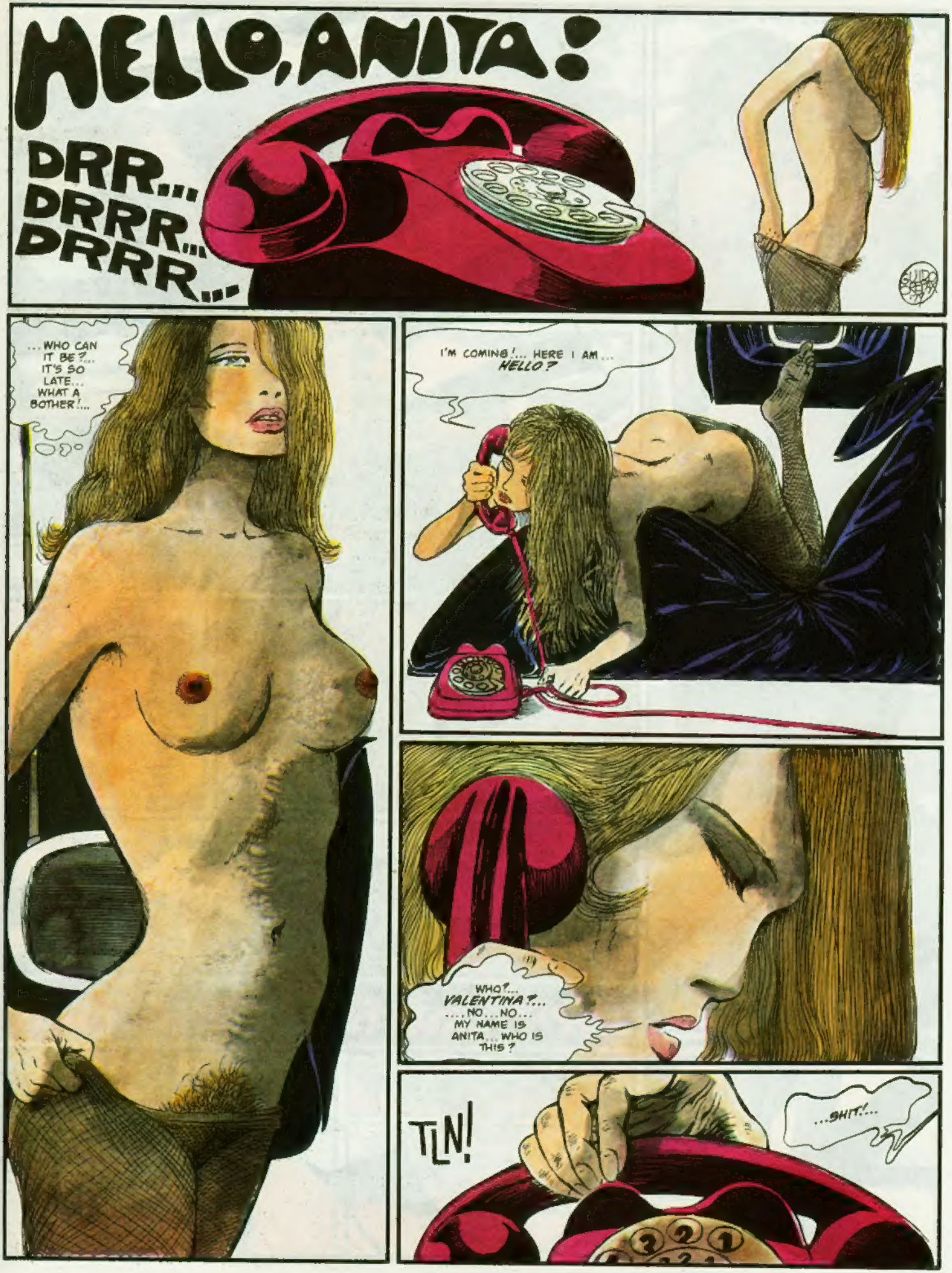
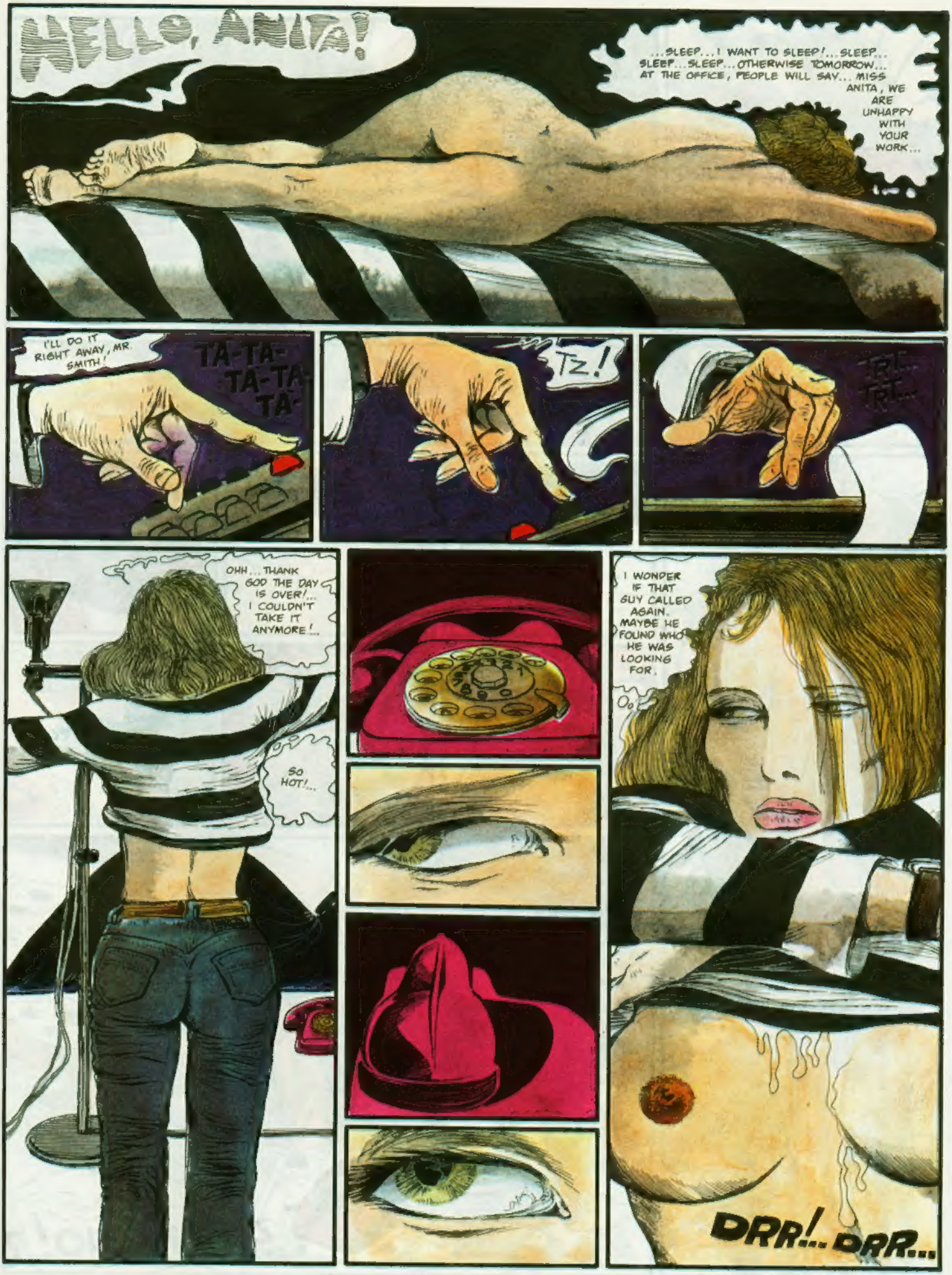
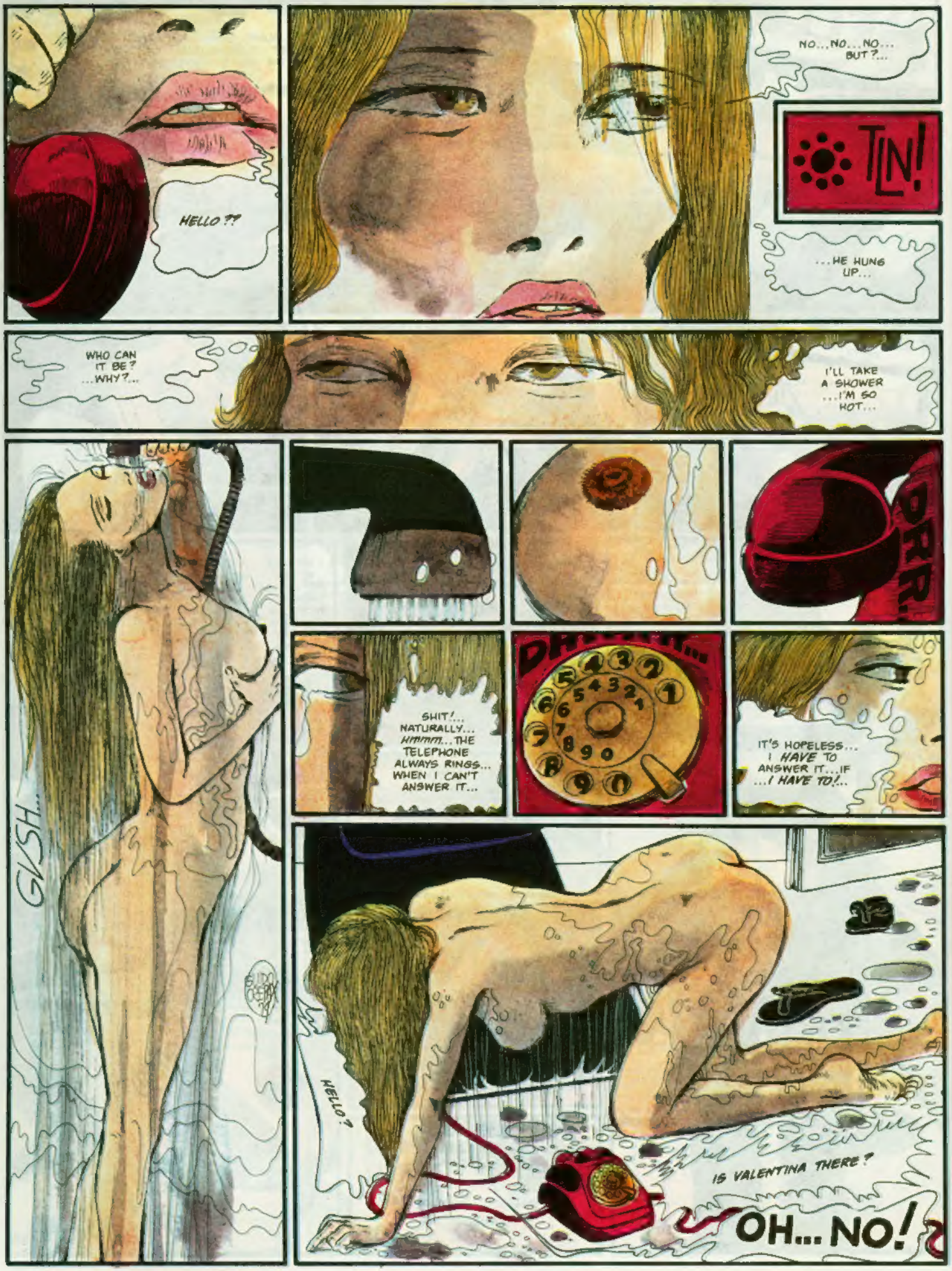
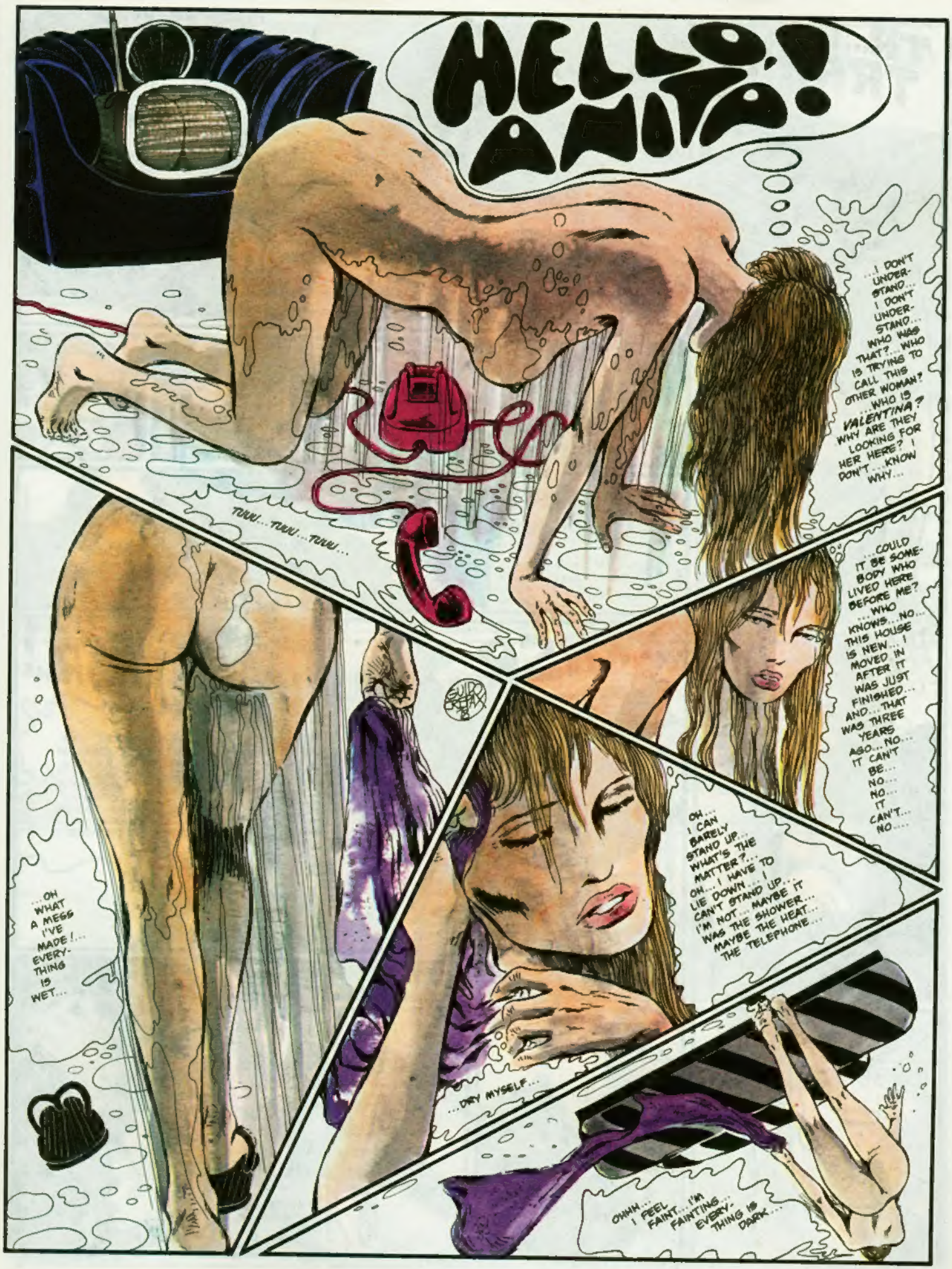
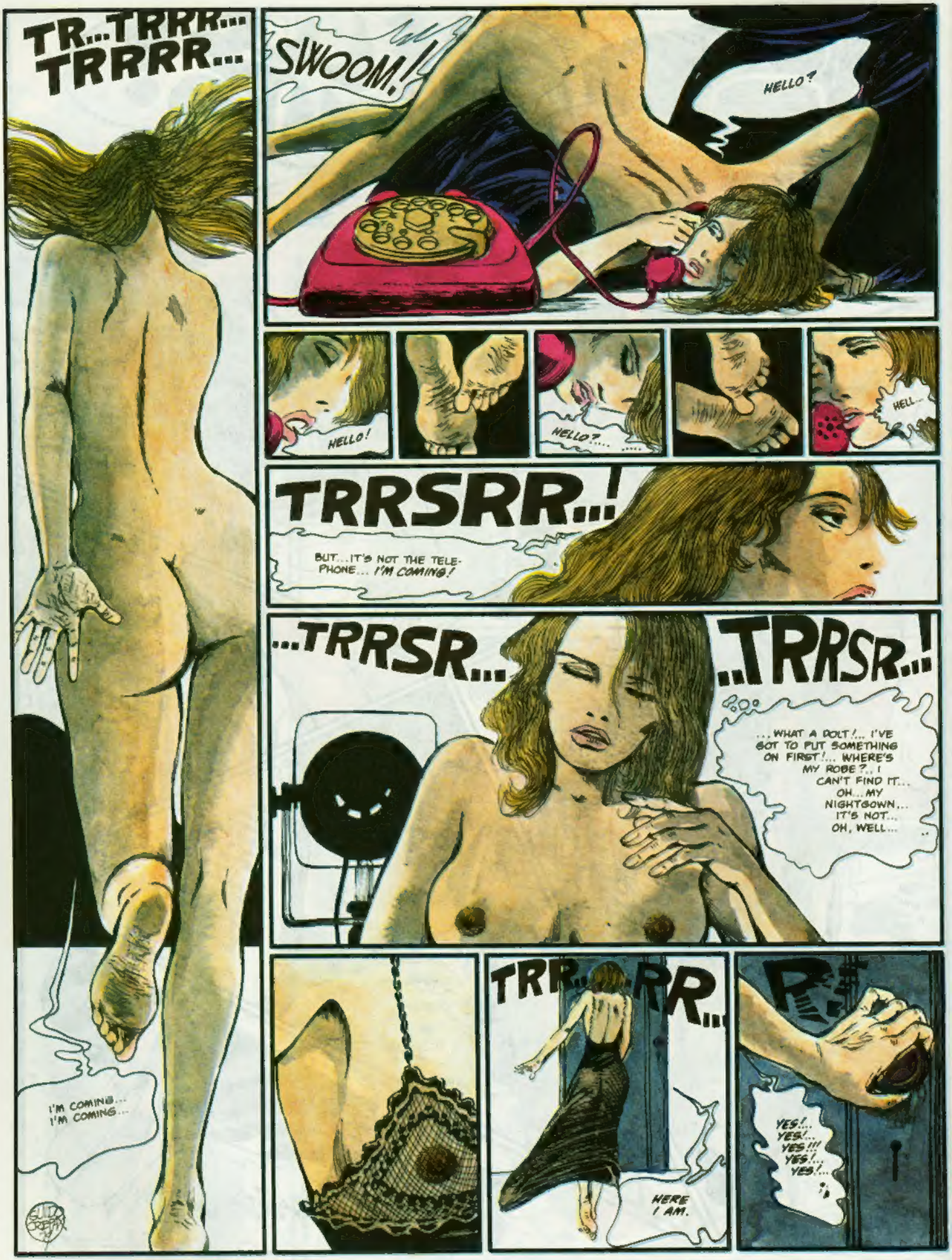

HELLO, ANITA!
DRR...
DRRR...
DRRR...
...WHO CAN IT BE?... IT'S SO LATE... WHAT A BOTHER!...
I'M COMING!... HERE I AM... HELLO?
WHO?... VALENTINA?... ...NO...NO... MY NAME IS ANITA... WHO IS THIS?
TLN!
...SHIT!...

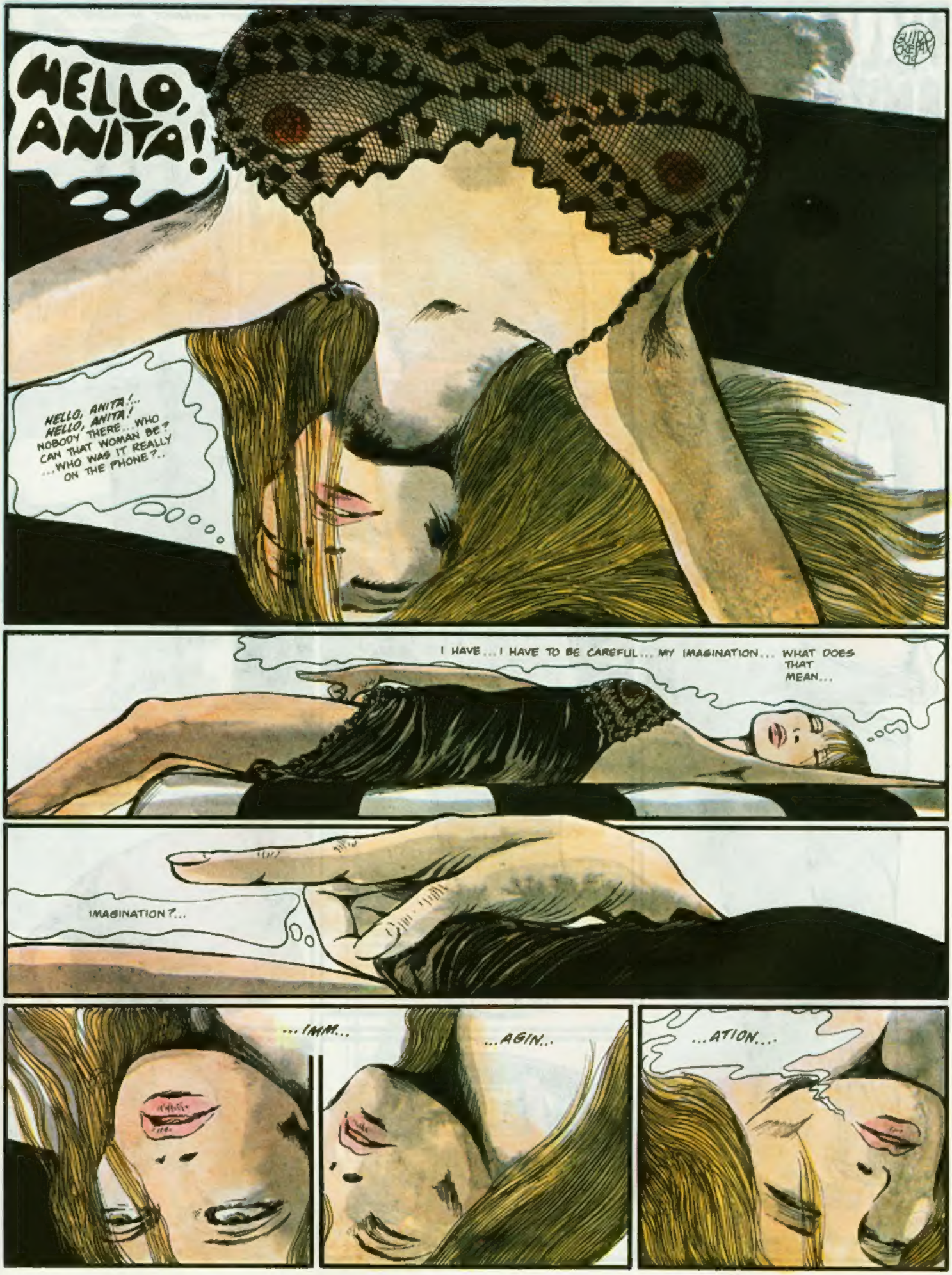
IT'S REALLY LATE!...
IT'S SO HOT!... I CAN'T... IF I DON'T FALL ASLEEP... TOMORROW I WON'T FUNCTION AT THE OFFICE... WHY DO WE HAVE TO GO TO THE OFFICE IN JULY?... Hmmm... OHHH...
...I REALLY CAN'T SLEEP... Hmmm...
OH... OHHHH... HMMM... OOHHH!...
HM... HMF... BFHH...
...MAYBE IF I...
DRR!... DRRRRRRR... DR
NO!... NOT AGAIN!!... Hmm...


HELLO, ANITA!
...SLEEP...! WANT TO SLEEP!... SLEEP... SLEEP... SLEEP... OTHERWISE TOMORROW... AT THE OFFICE, PEOPLE WILL SAY... MISS ANITA, WE ARE UNHAPPY WITH YOUR WORK...
I'LL DO IT RIGHT AWAY, MR. SMITH!
TA-TA-TA-TA-TA-
TZ!
TRT... TRT...
OHH... THANK GOD THE DAY IS OVER!... I COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!...
SO HOT!...
I WONDER IF THAT GUY CALLED AGAIN. MAYBE HE FOUND WHO HE WAS LOOKING FOR.
DRR!... DRR...


HELLO ??
NO...NO...NO... BUT ?...
TLN!
...HE HUNG UP...
WHO CAN IT BE? ...WHY?..
I'LL TAKE A SHOWER ...I'M SO HOT...
GUSH...
DRR!
SHIT!... NATURALLY... Hmmm...THE TELEPHONE ALWAYS RINGS... WHEN I CAN'T ANSWER IT...
IT'S HOPELESS... I HAVE TO ANSWER IT...IF ...I HAVE TO!...
HELLO?
IS VALENTINA THERE?
OH... NO!

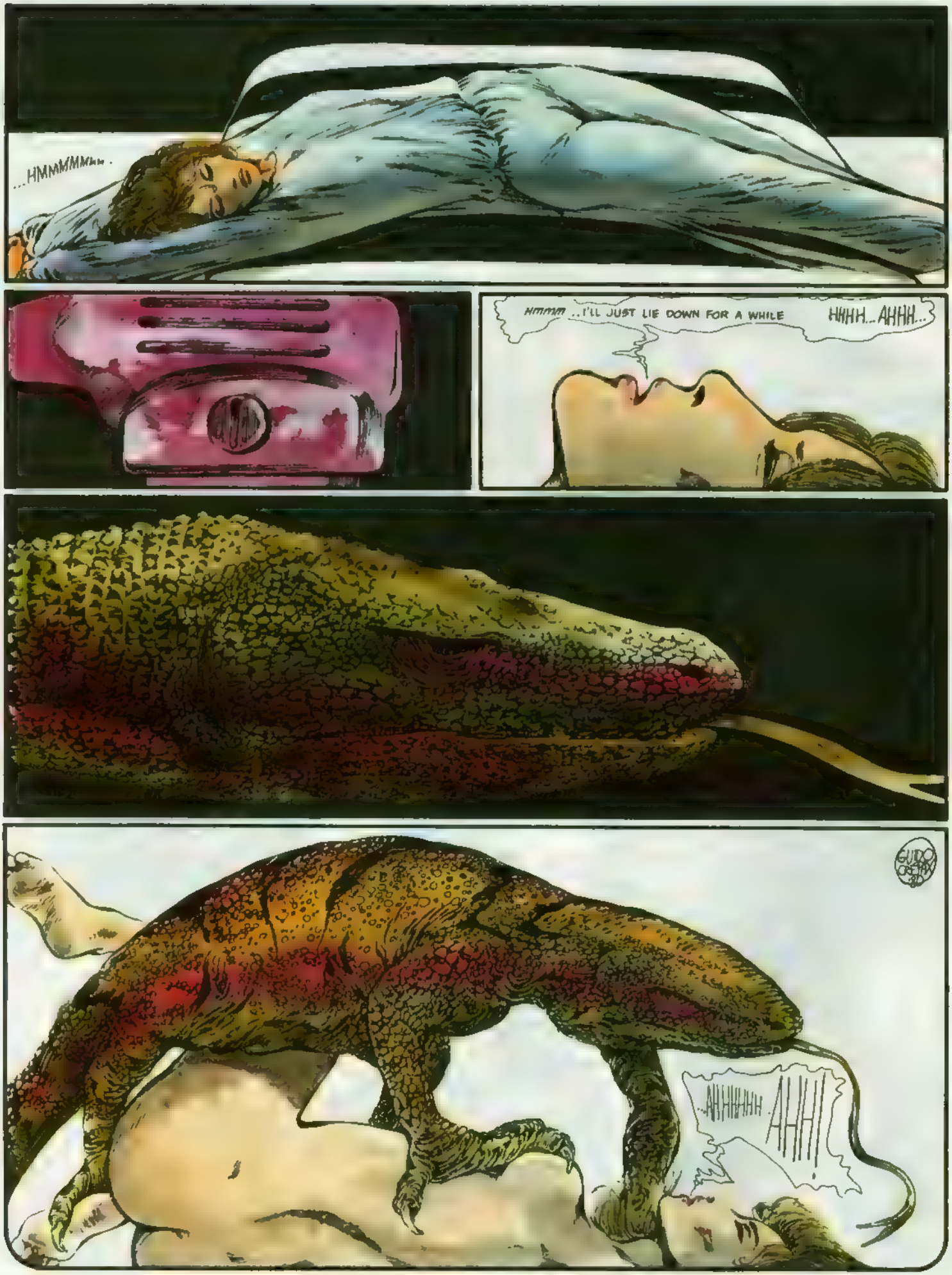

HELLO, ANITA!
...I DON'T UNDERSTAND... I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHO WAS THAT?... WHO IS TRYING TO CALL THIS OTHER WOMAN? ...WHO IS VALENTINA? WHY ARE THEY LOOKING FOR HER HERE? I DON'T... KNOW WHY...
TIIIII... TIIIII... TIIIII...
...COULD IT BE SOMEBODY WHO LIVED HERE BEFORE ME? WHO KNOWS... NO... THIS HOUSE IS NEW... I MOVED IN AFTER IT WAS JUST FINISHED... AND... THAT WAS THREE YEARS AGO... NO... IT CAN'T BE... NO... NO... IT CAN'T... NO...
OH... I CAN BARELY STAND UP... WHAT'S THE MATTER?... OH... I HAVE TO LIE DOWN... I CAN'T STAND UP... I'M NOT... MAYBE IT WAS THE SHOWER... MAYBE THE HEAT... THE TELEPHONE...
...OH WHAT A MESS I'VE MADE!... EVERYTHING IS WET...
...DRY MYSELF...
OHHH... I FEEL FAINT... I'M FAINTING... EVERYTHING IS DARK...


TR...TRRR...
TRRRR...
I'M COMING...
I'M COMING...
SWOOM!
HELLO?
HELLO!
HELLO?....
HELL...
TRRSRR..!
BUT...IT'S NOT THE TELE-PHONE... I'M COMING!
...TRRSR...
..TRRSR..!
...WHAT A DOLT!... I'VE GOT TO PUT SOMETHING ON FIRST!... WHERE'S MY ROBE?.. I CAN'T FIND IT... OH...MY NIGHTGOWN... IT'S NOT... OH, WELL...
TRR...RR..
HERE I AM.
YES!... YES!... YES!!! YES!... YES!...


HELLO, ANITA!
HELLO, ANITA!... HELLO, ANITA! NOBODY THERE... WHO CAN THAT WOMAN BE? ...WHO WAS IT REALLY ON THE PHONE?..
I HAVE... I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL... MY IMAGINATION... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN...
IMAGINATION?...
...IMM...
...AGIN...
...ATION...

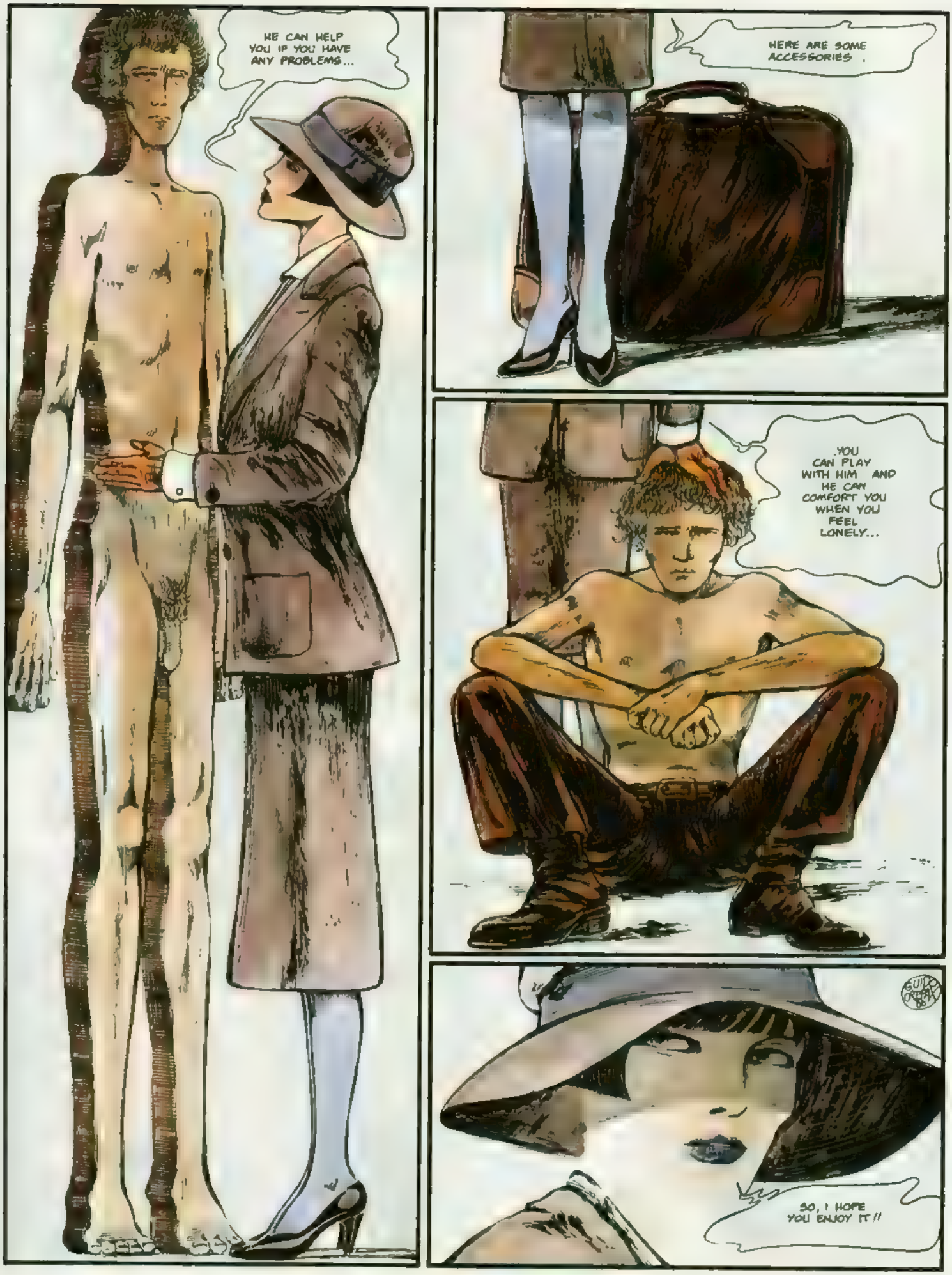
HELLO! ANITA!
ANOTHER HOT DAY!... HELLO, ANITA!... YES... YES...HELLO, ANITA... HELLO, ANITA...
ENOUGH!... ENOUGH.... I WON'T ANSWER THE TELE-PHONE ANY-MORE!
I WON'T ANSWER ANYMORE !!!

DR...
...DRRRR
DR
DRR
DRRRRR
IT STOPPED....
FINALLY!...
I DIDN'T ANSWER !!! I DIDN'T ANSWER!! I MADE IT...
IT NO LONGER HAS HAS ANY POWER OVER ME!!
AND WHAT IF IT'S SOMETHING IMPORTANT? BUT I NEVER DO ANYTHING THAT'S IMPORTANT MY BOSS? HE SEES ME EVERY DAY AT THE OFFICE .. AND THEN I'M ALWAYS ALONE
WELL, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO? GO SEE A MOVIE? I COULD GO WITH VIRGINIA SHE SITS NEXT TO ME AT WORK .. SHE ALWAYS LOOKS LONELY.. I'LL CALL HER
OH NO! I CANNOT TOUCH THE TELEPHONE!!


...HMMMMMmm.
HMMM ..I'LL JUST LIE DOWN FOR A WHILE
HHHH...AHHH...
..AHHHHHH AHH!

HELLO, ANITA!
HELLO, ANITA!
HELLO, ANITA!
HELLO, ANITA!
HELLO, ANITA!
HELLO, ANITA!
HELLO, ANITA!
HELLO, ANITA!
HELLO, ANITA!
HELLO, ANITA!

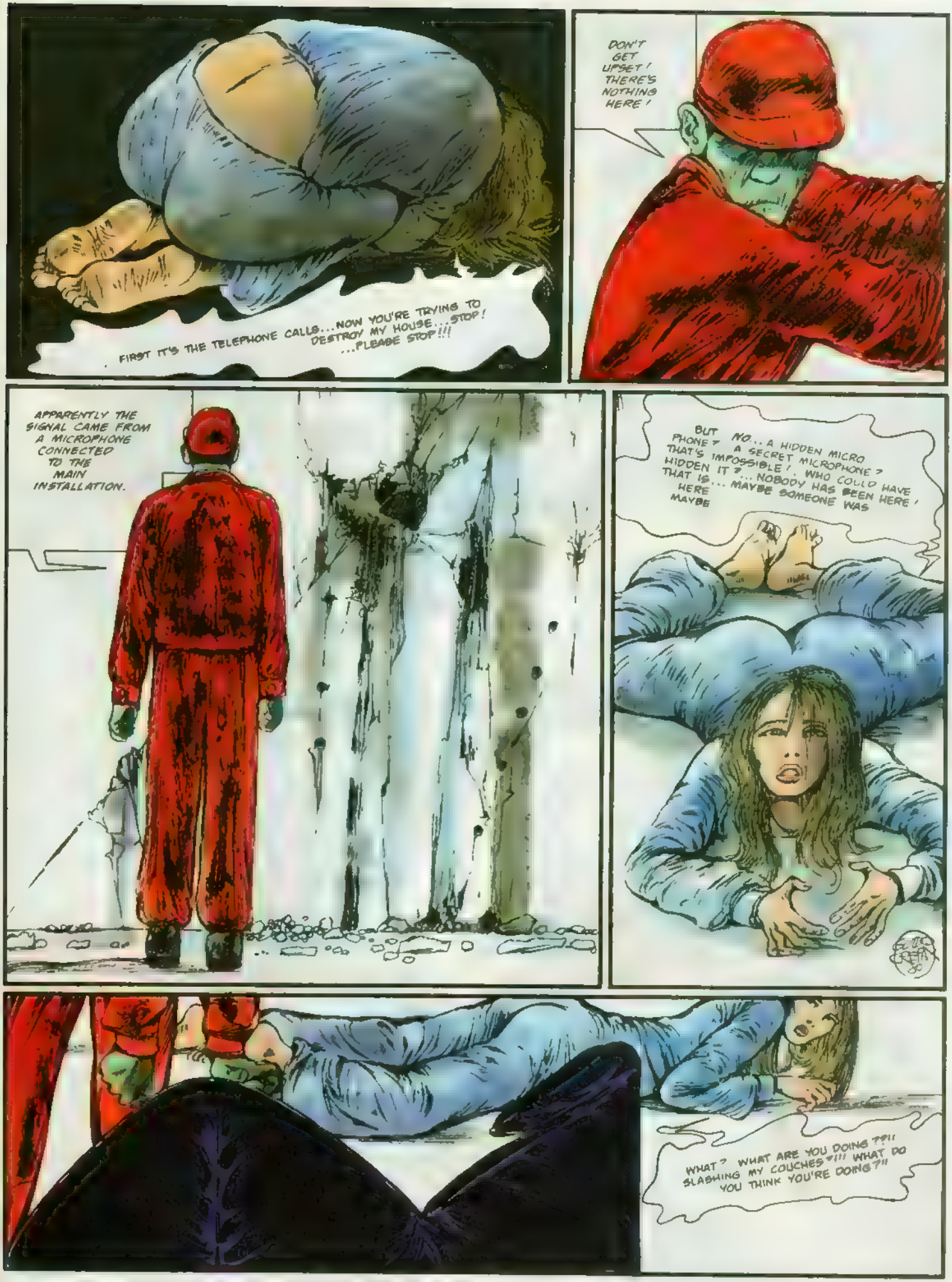
I'M READY YES, I'M READY YES
TRRR!
OH WHO ARE YOU? YOU MUST BE VALEN-TINA!
HELLO...
HELLO, ANITA! I BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING THAT MIGHT COME IN HANDY
GUIDO CREPAX '80


HE CAN HELP YOU IF YOU HAVE ANY PROBLEMS...
HERE ARE SOME ACCESSORIES .
.YOU CAN PLAY WITH HIM AND HE CAN COMFORT YOU WHEN YOU FEEL LONELY...
SO, I HOPE YOU ENJOY IT !!

DR.....
DRRR
I'M NOT ANSWERING... WELL, WHY NOT?
WHAT? .. YOU WANT TO KNOW IF THERE IS ANOTHER PERSON HERE WITH ME? NO! NOBODY ELSE IS HERE!!

HELLO ANITA!
I'M COMING HOLD ON JUST A MOMENT.
REPAIRMAN.
SORRY IT'S TAKEN SO LONG TO COME AND...
REPAIR YOUR PHONE
BUT I DIDN'T CALL YOU! THERE MUST BE A MISTAKE!
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! MY DISPATCHER SAYS THAT YOUR LINE IS OUT OF ORDER.
OUT OF MY WAY!
I'M SORRY. I NEVER CALLED BUT WHAT...

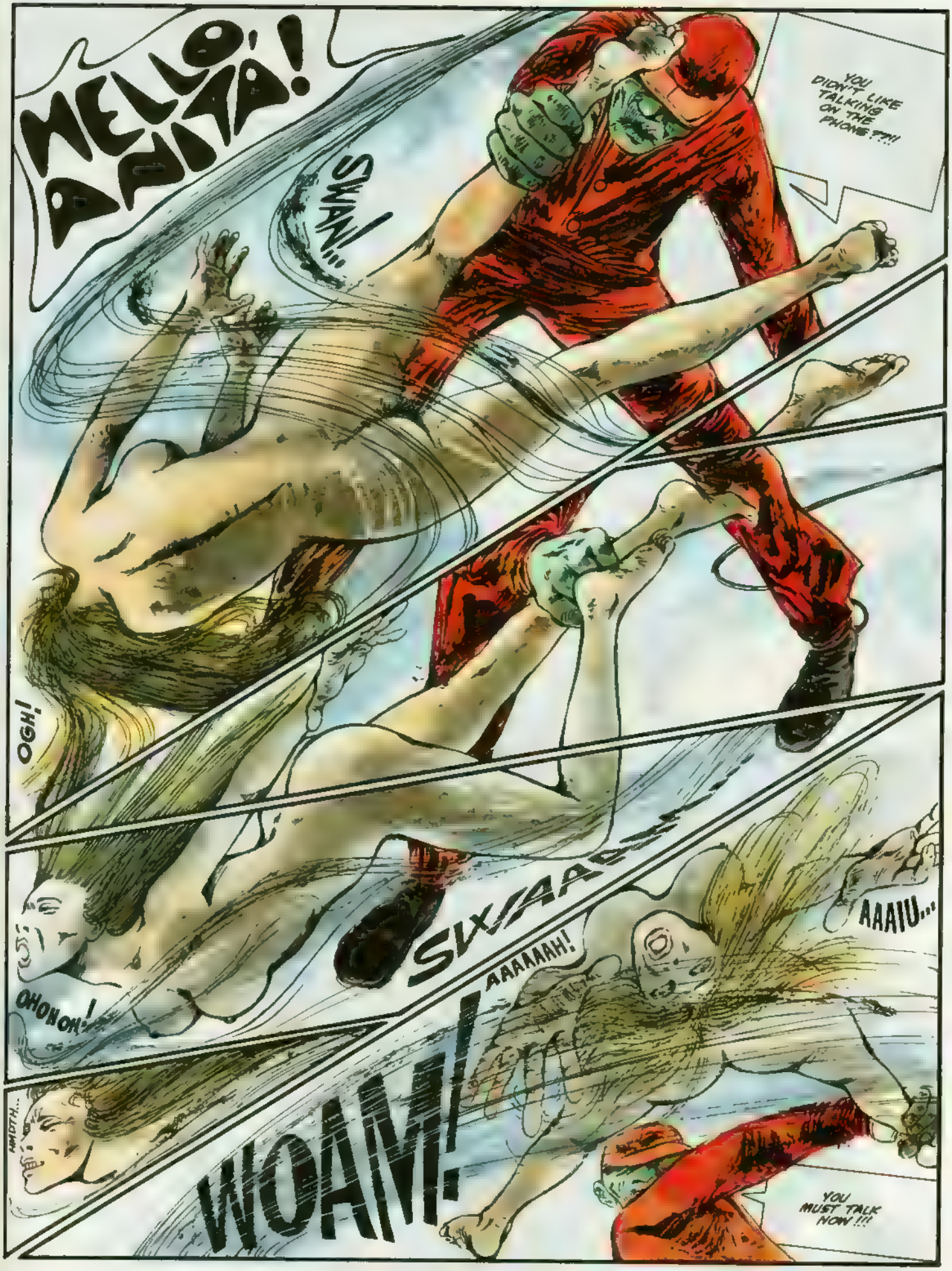
I HAVE TO CHECK THE MAIN LINE...
BUT . BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
KRRRZRR...
NO! NO!
KRRR...
KRU...
H!
ZRRRR...
ZRRRRRR...
STOP! STOP! STOP! STOP! STOP!


FIRST IT'S THE TELEPHONE CALLS... NOW YOU'RE TRYING TO DESTROY MY HOUSE... STOP! ...PLEASE STOP!!!
DON'T GET UPSET! THERE'S NOTHING HERE!
APPARENTLY THE SIGNAL CAME FROM A MICROPHONE CONNECTED TO THE MAIN INSTALLATION.
BUT NO... A HIDDEN MICRO PHONE? A SECRET MICROPHONE? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WHO COULD HAVE HIDDEN IT? ...NOBODY HAS BEEN HERE! THAT IS... MAYBE SOMEONE WAS HERE MAYBE
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!! SLASHING MY COUCHES?!!! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!!

WAIT PLEASE WAIT
I BEG YOU... IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE !!!
IMPOSSIBLE ?
HOW CAN YOU BE
SO SURE ?
WELL
LET
ME
GO !!!
YOU
CAN'T
DENY
YOU HAVE
RECEIVED
A LOT OF
TELEPHONE
CALLS
YOU'RE ONLY TRYING
TO MISLEAD ME
YOU KNOW
PERFECTLY WELL WHERE THE
SECRET MICROPHONES
ARE ?
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT DO YOU
WANT ? I DON'T
KNOW ! I DON'T
SWEAR !

YES BUT THEY WERE STRANGE CALLS SOMEBODY I DIDN'T KNOW
SO YOU ADMIT THEY WERE STRANGE CALLS!
THAT ONLY MEANS THAT THEY WERE TRYING TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH.
A CODE!
A CODE?!!! I DON'T HAVE A CODE I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN!
!!! BUT WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME? WHY?

DID YOU USE PUNCHED CARDS ??
OR MICROFILM ?
WHERE DID YOU HIDE THEM??
I WANT TO SEE !!!
AAAAH!
HELP!

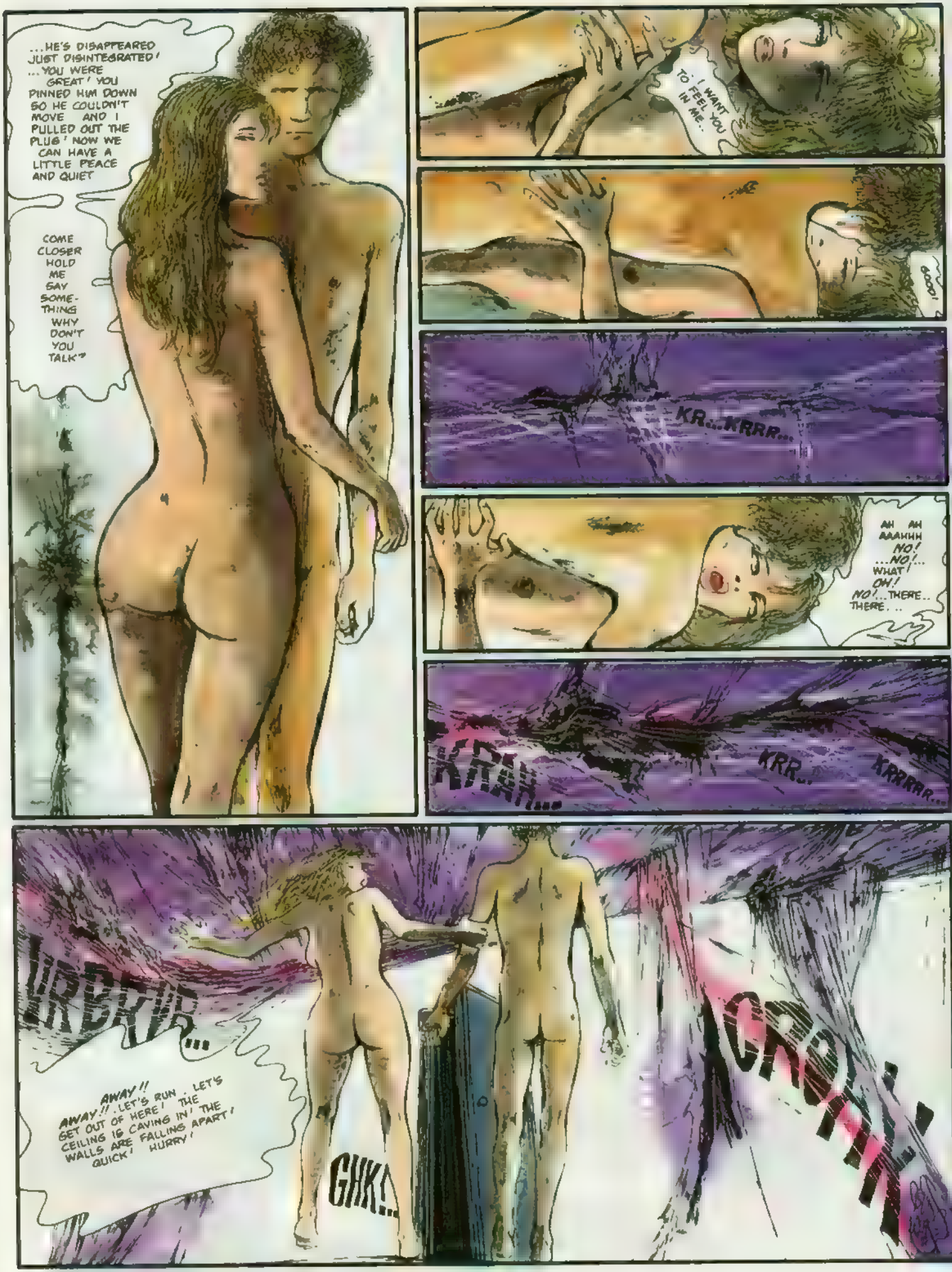

HELLO ANITA!
SWAN...
YOU DIDN'T LIKE TALKING ON THE PHONE ?!!
OGH!
SIXAAC
AAAIU...
AAAAAAH!
OHONOH!
WOAM!
YOU MUST TALK NOW !!!

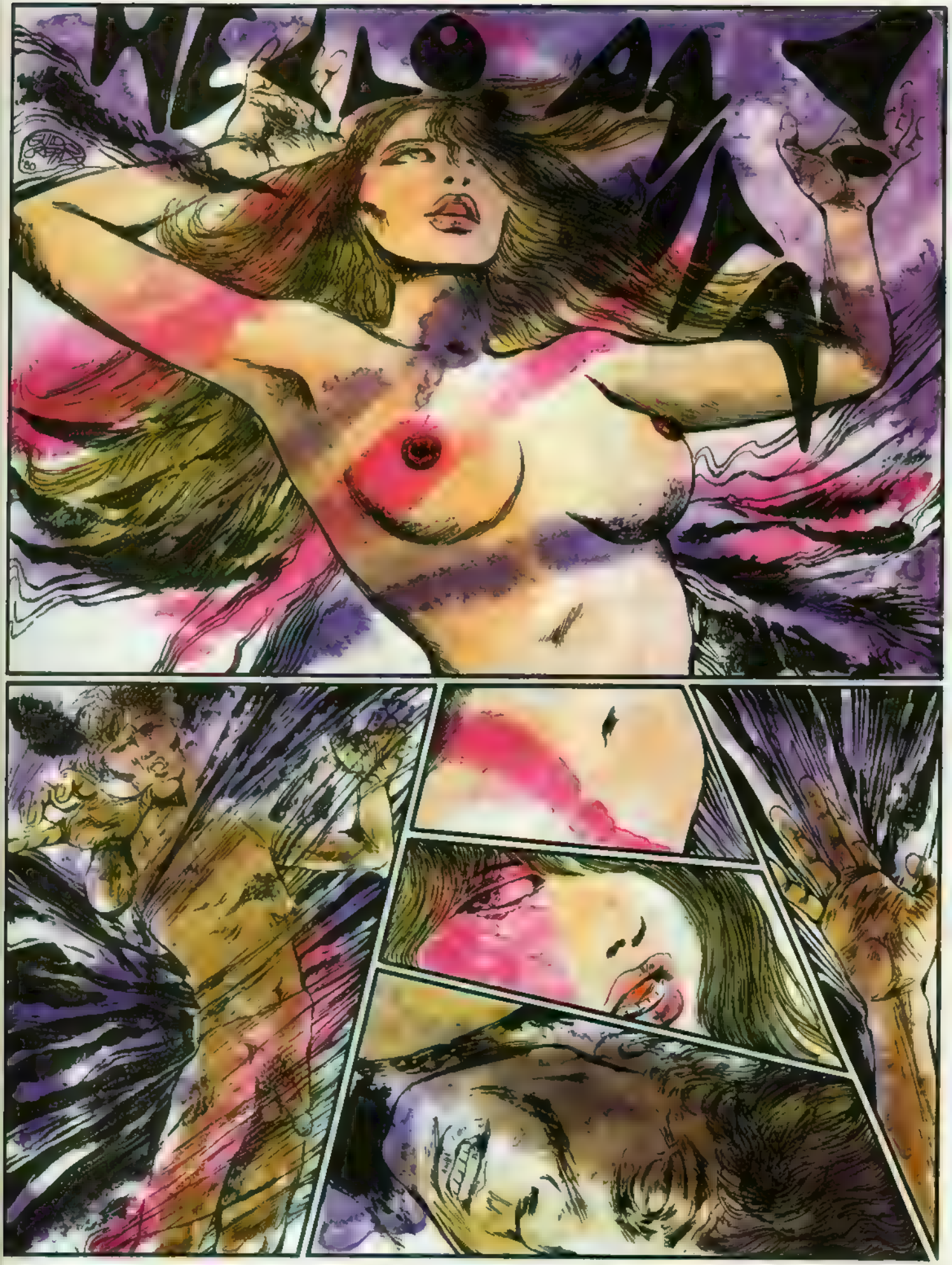
HELP!
HELP!

SOCK!
SWAP!

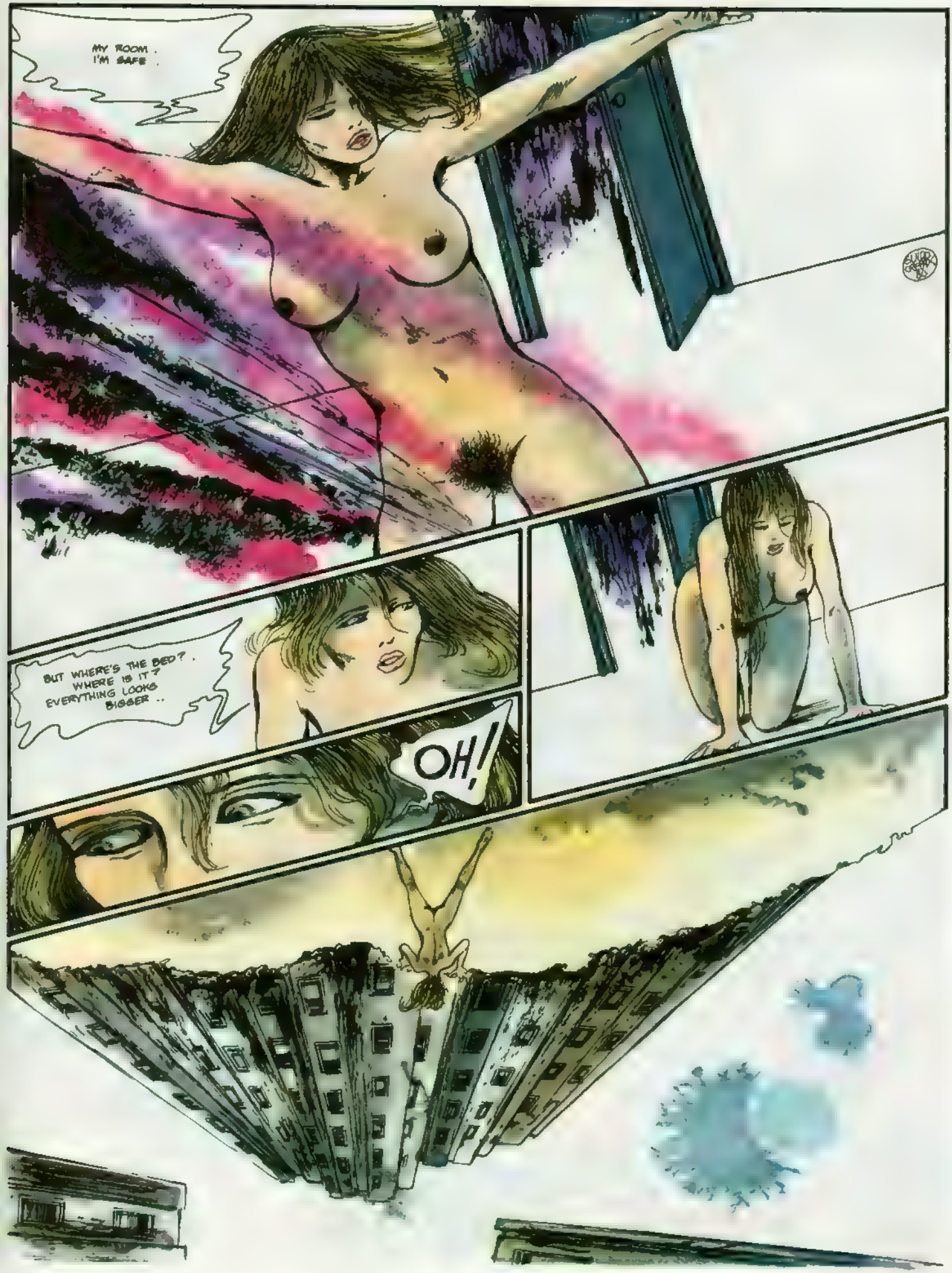
GUSH!
KZ!

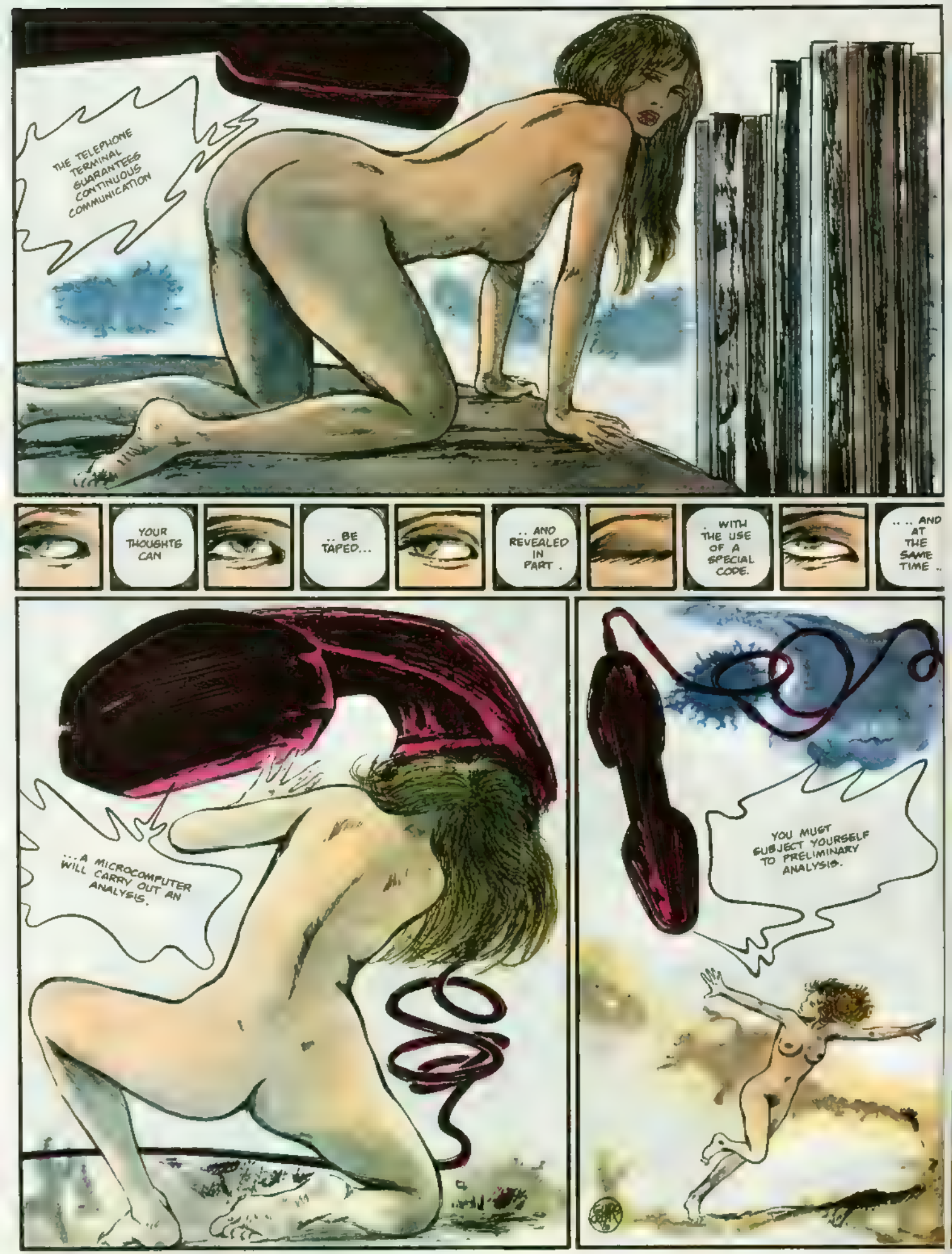
WE MADE IT!!
GHZK!
KTKTRK
KGH...KTKTRRRRRRRR!
GHGHGHGHHHH.....
YOU SEE!! IT WAS JUST A ROBOT! I JUST NEEDED TO PULL THE PLUG HE'S ALREADY DISINTEGRATING..
HIS UNIFORM IS NEARLY EMPTY!

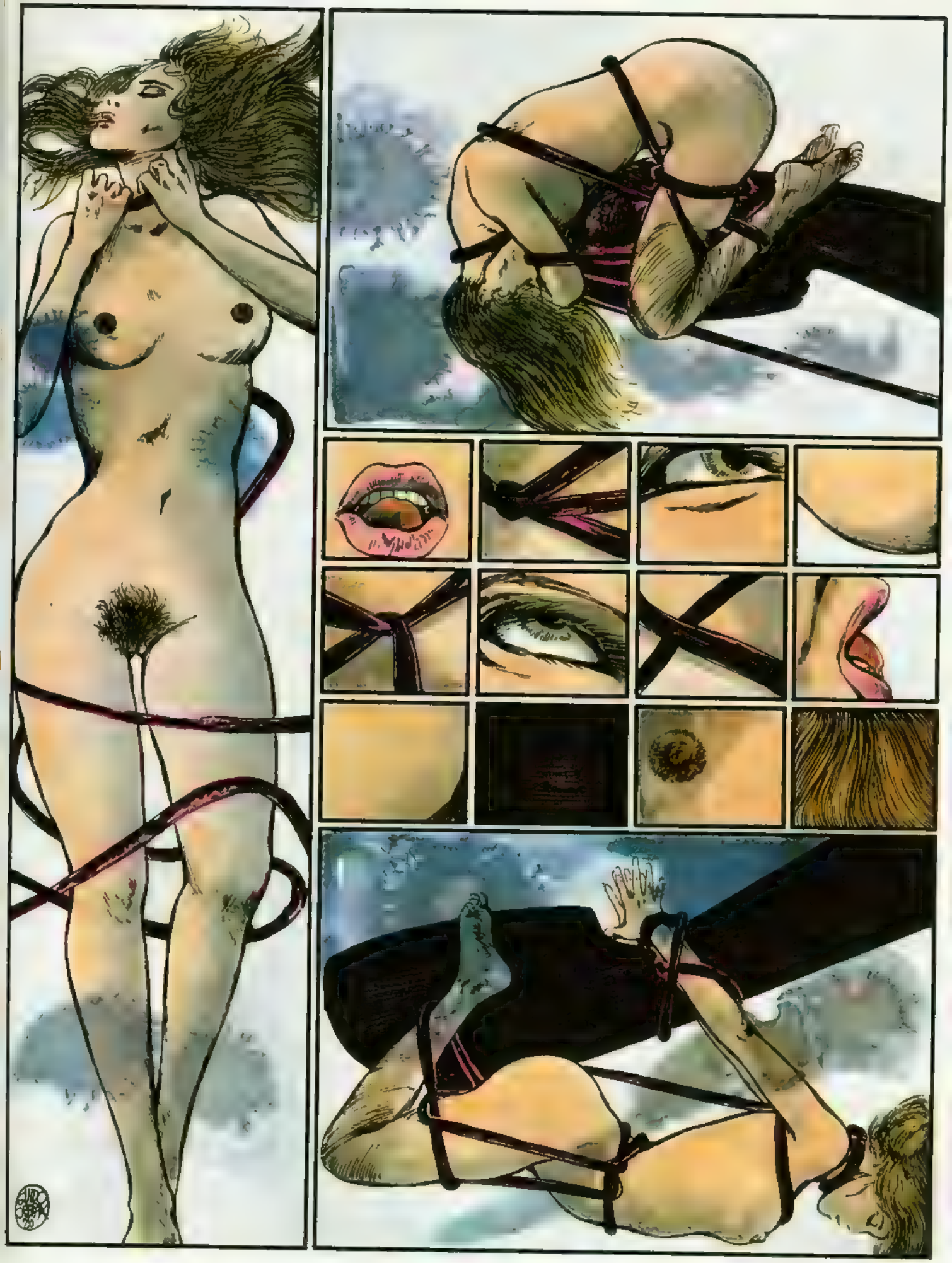

...HE'S DISAPPEARED JUST DISINTEGRATED! ...YOU WERE GREAT! YOU PINNED HIM DOWN SO HE COULDN'T MOVE AND I PULLED OUT THE PLUG! NOW WE CAN HAVE A LITTLE PEACE AND QUIET
COME CLOSER HOLD ME SAY SOMETHING WHY DON'T YOU TALK?
I WANT TO FEEL YOU IN ME...
GOOD!
KR...KRRR...
AH AH AAAHHH NO! ...NO!... WHAT! OH! NO!...THERE... THERE...
KRAH...
KRR...
KRRRRR...
URRRR...
AWAY!! AWAY!! LET'S RUN LET'S GET OUT OF HERE! THE CEILING IS CAVING IN! THE WALLS ARE FALLING APART! QUICK! HURRY!
GHK!
CRRRR...

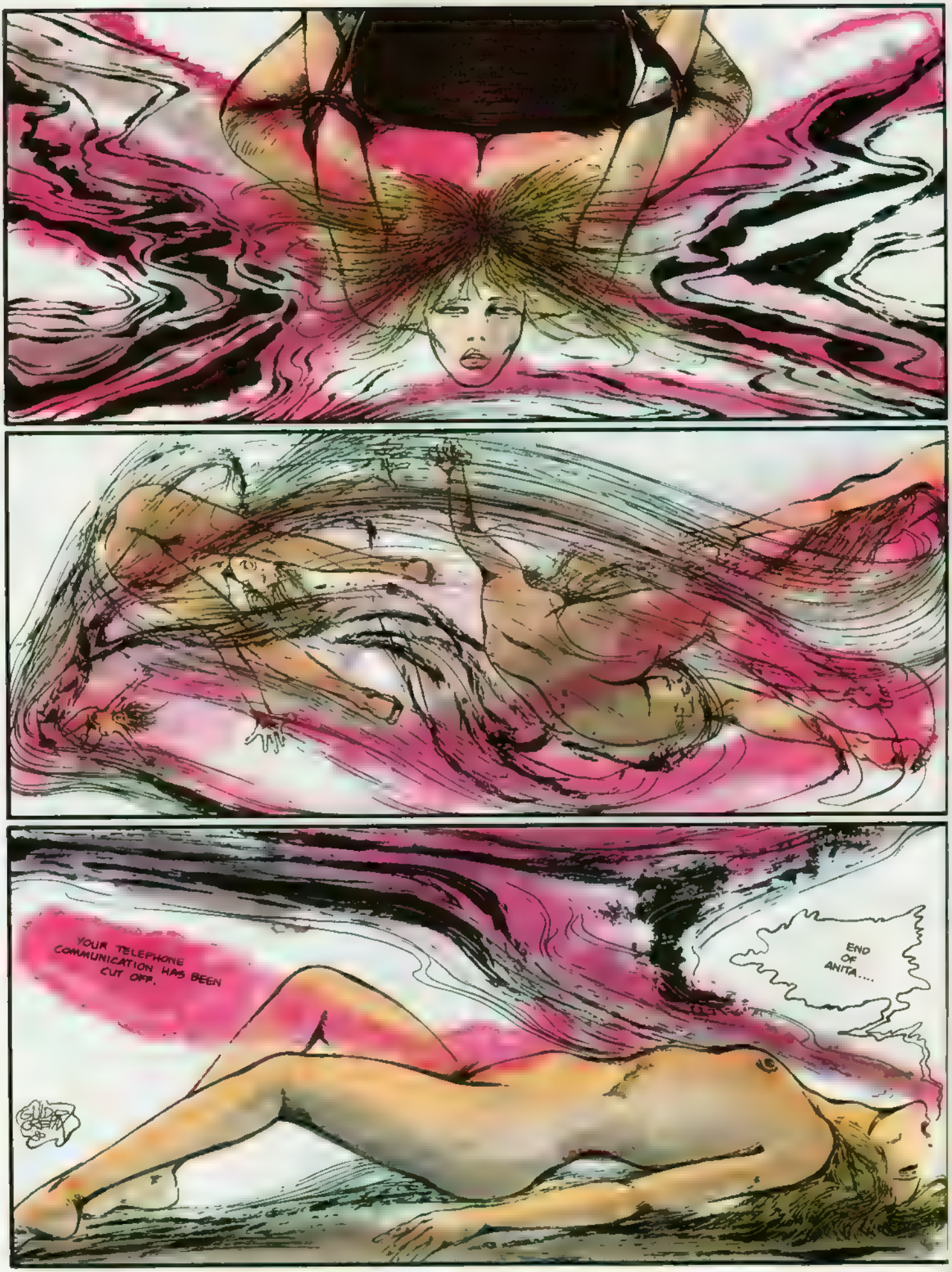

HELLO BOY!

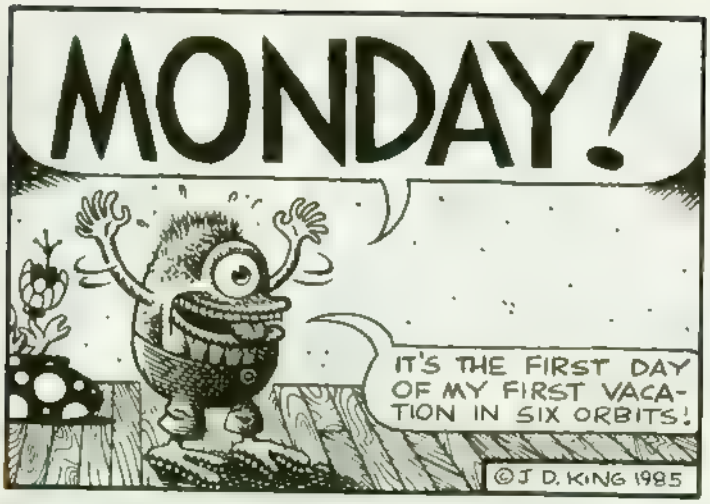
THE HOUSE IS DISAPPEARING AROUND ME...
NOOOOOO.....
THAT WAY THAT DOOR

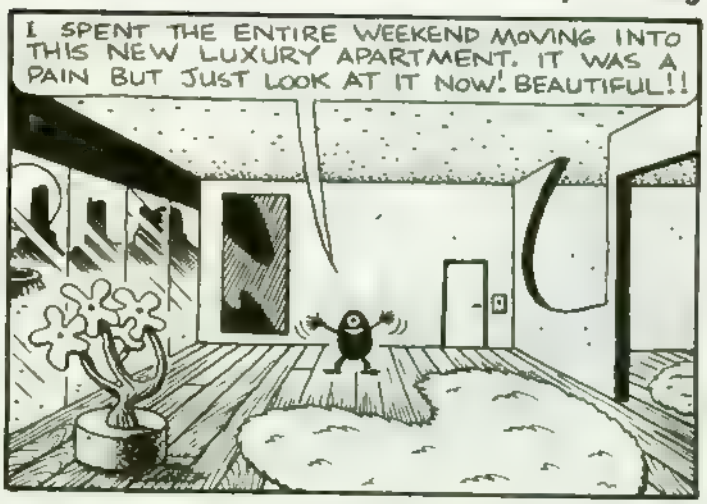

MY ROOM . I'M SAFE .
BUT WHERE'S THE BED? . WHERE IS IT? EVERYTHING LOOKS BIGGER ..
OH!

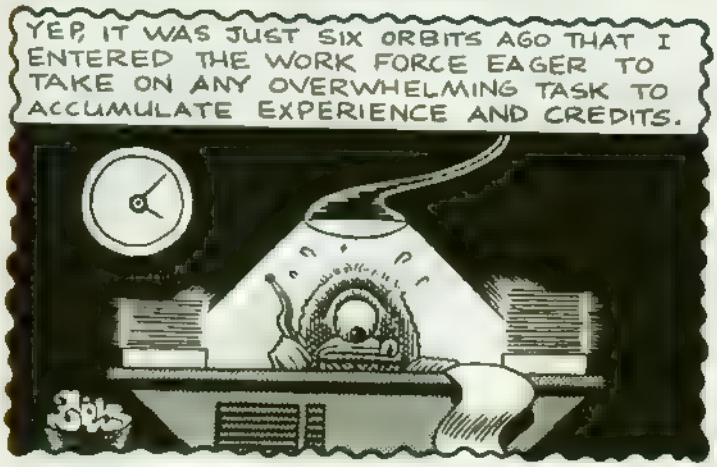

THE TELEPHONE TERMINAL GUARANTEES CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION
YOUR THOUGHTS CAN
.. BE TAPED...
.. AND REVEALED IN PART .
WITH THE USE OF A SPECIAL CODE.
.. .. AND AT THE SAME TIME ..
...A MICROCOMPUTER WILL CARRY OUT AN ANALYSIS.
YOU MUST SUBJECT YOURSELF TO PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS.

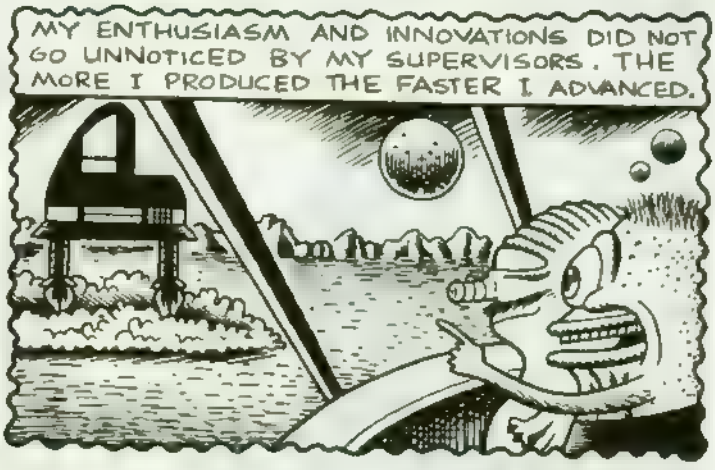


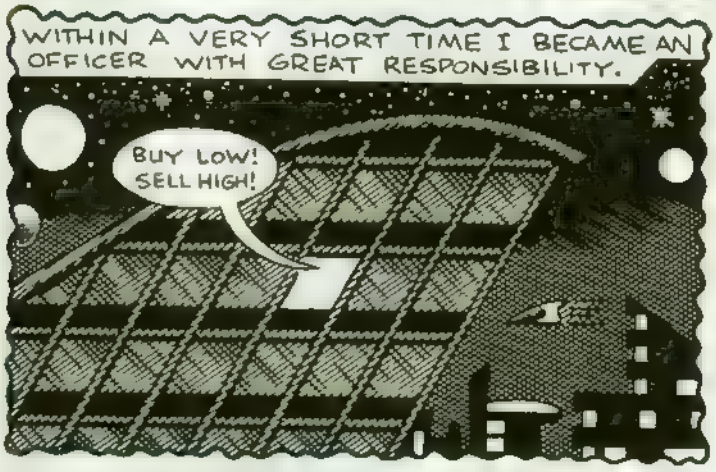

YOUR TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN CUT OFF.
END OF ANITA....

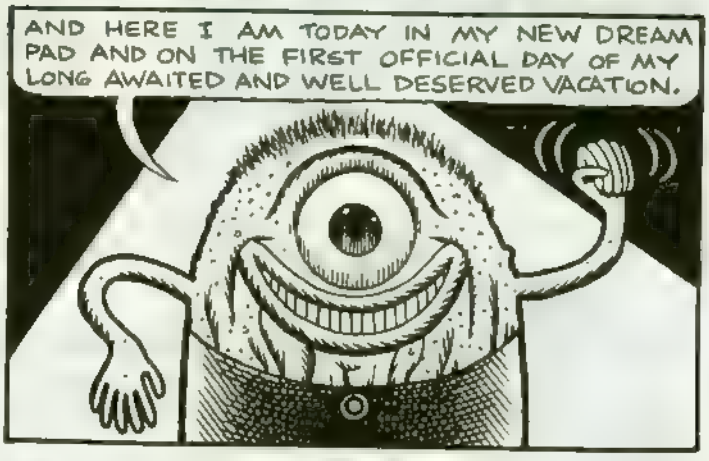

MONDAY!
IT'S THE FIRST DAY OF MY FIRST VACATION IN SIX ORBITS!
©J D. KING 1985

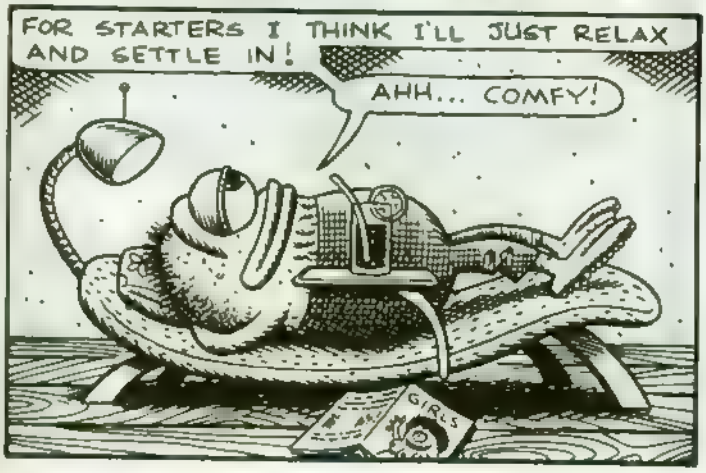

I SPENT THE ENTIRE WEEKEND MOVING INTO THIS NEW LUXURY APARTMENT. IT WAS A PAIN BUT JUST LOOK AT IT NOW! BEAUTIFUL!!


YEP, IT WAS JUST SIX ORBITS AGO THAT I ENTERED THE WORK FORCE EAGER TO TAKE ON ANY OVERWHELMING TASK TO ACCUMULATE EXPERIENCE AND CREDITS.

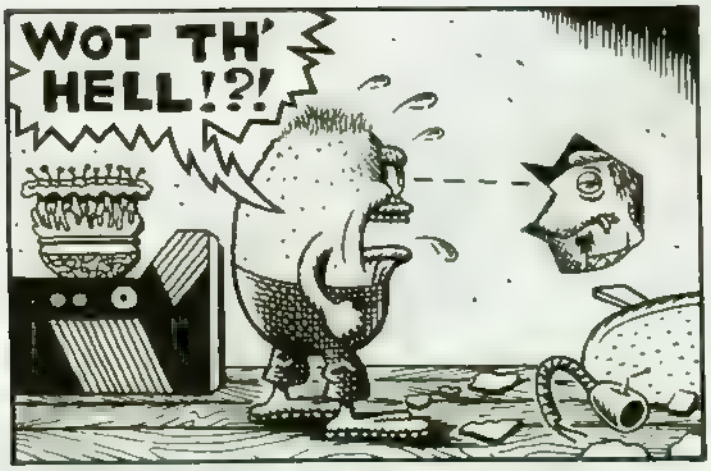

MY ENTHUSIASM AND INNOVATIONS DID NOT GO UNNOTICED BY MY SUPERVISORS. THE MORE I PRODUCED THE FASTER I ADVANCED.


WITHIN A VERY SHORT TIME I BECAME AN OFFICER WITH GREAT RESPONSIBILITY.
BUY LOW! SELL HIGH!


AND HERE I AM TODAY IN MY NEW DREAM PAD AND ON THE FIRST OFFICIAL DAY OF MY LONG AWAITED AND WELL DESERVED VACATION.

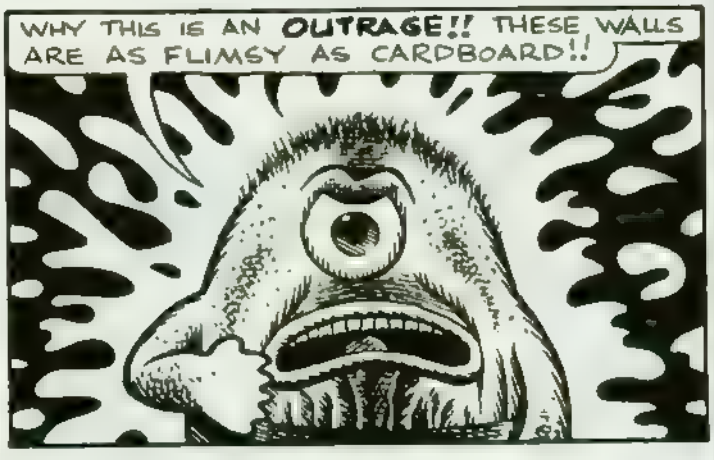

FOR STARTERS I THINK I'LL JUST RELAX AND SETTLE IN!
AHH... COMFY!
GIRLS

WHAMO!

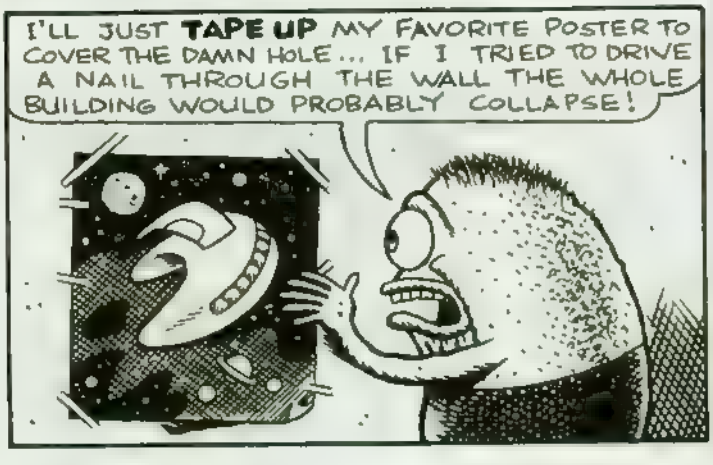

WOT TH' HELL!?!

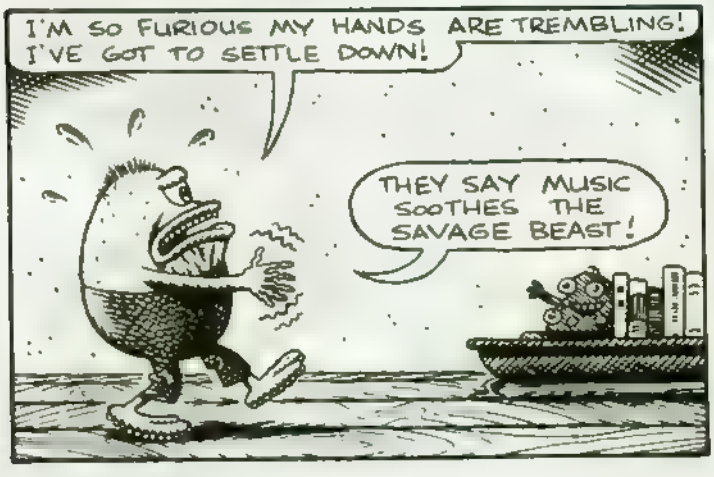
SORRY ABOUT THAT, CHIEF! I WAS JUST STRETCHING AND I GUESS I ACCIDENTALLY PUT MY FIST THROUGH THE WALL!
POETRY READING
JAZZ

JEST DON'T KNOW MUH OWN STRENGTH, MAN! HEH! HEH!

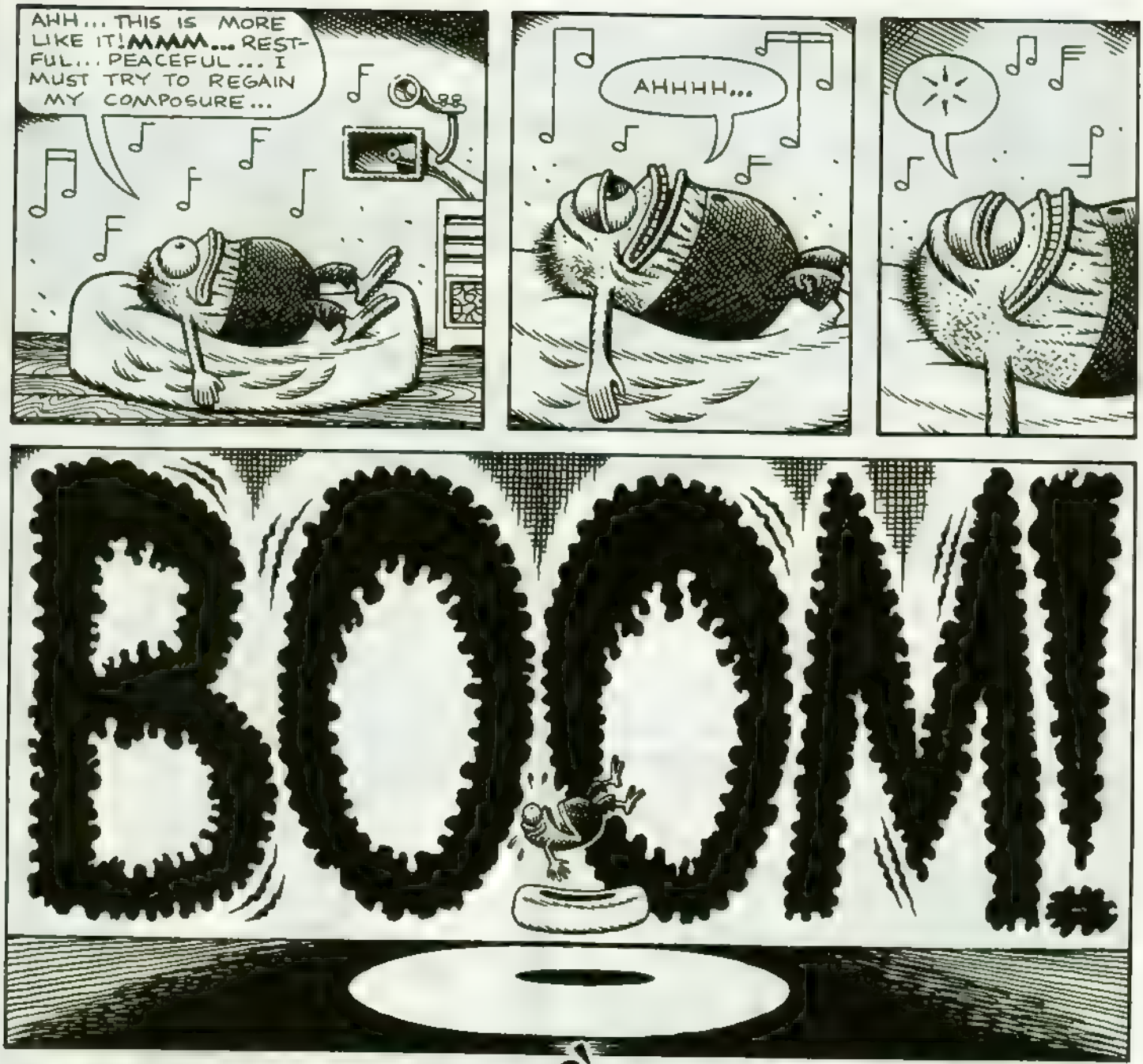

WHY THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!! THESE WALLS ARE AS FLIMSY AS CARDBOARD!!

YEH, WELL MY ADVICE IS TO CHILL OUT, BABY!
LIKE, HANG A PICTURE OVER THE HOLE!
BE COOL, KID! CIAO!

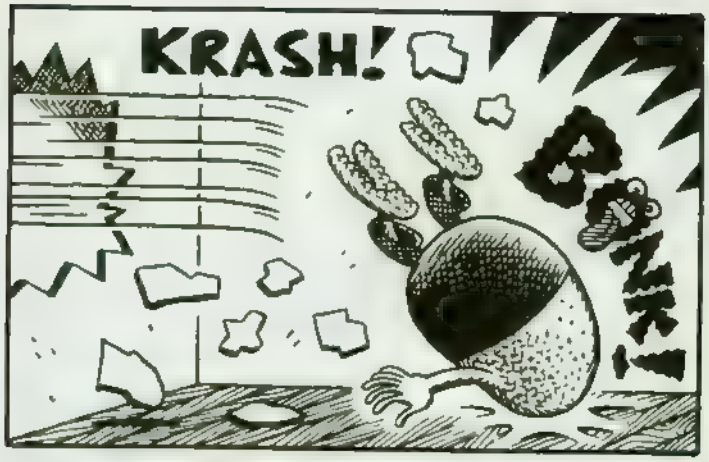

I'LL JUST TAPE UP MY FAVORITE POSTER TO COVER THE DAMN HOLE... IF I TRIED TO DRIVE A NAIL THROUGH THE WALL THE WHOLE BUILDING WOULD PROBABLY COLLAPSE!

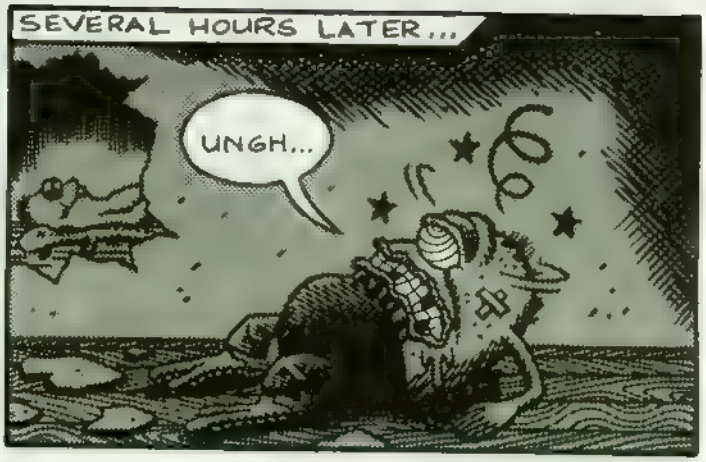

I'M SO FURIOUS MY HANDS ARE TREMBLING! I'VE GOT TO SETTLE DOWN!
THEY SAY MUSIC SOOTHES THE SAVAGE BEAST!

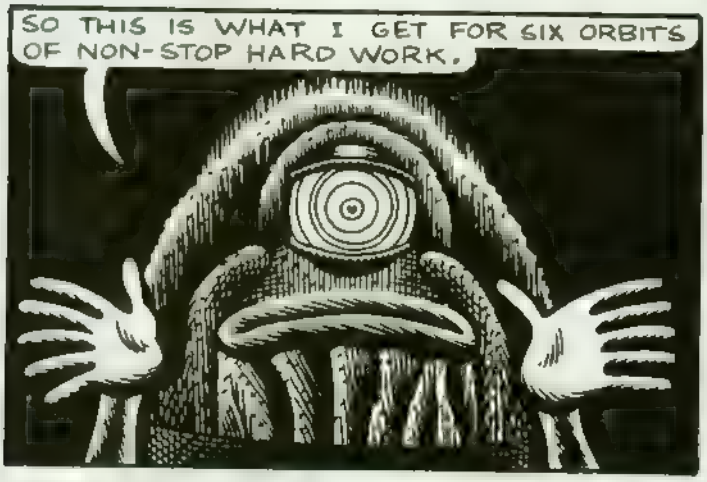
MAYBE SOME ARCTURIAN FOLK TUNES... THAT'S WHAT I NEED! QUIET... CALMING.

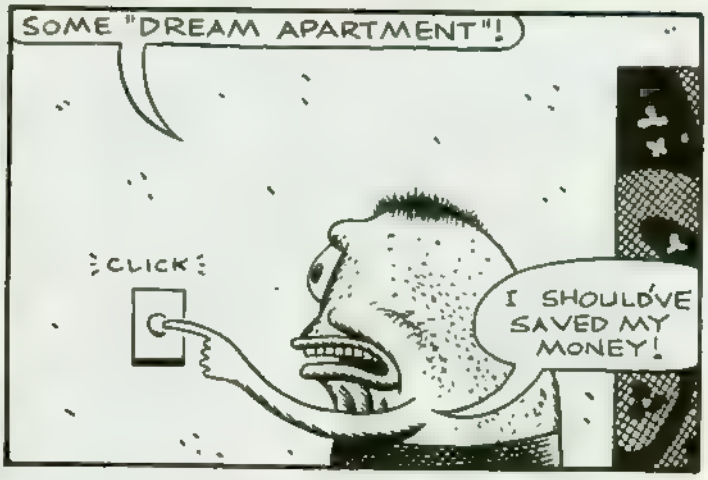

AHH... THIS IS MORE LIKE IT! MMMM... RESTFUL... PEACEFUL... I MUST TRY TO REGAIN MY COMPOSURE...
AHHHH...
BOOM!!!
BOOM LAKA LAKA BOOM LAKA LAKA
OMIGOD! NOW WHAT?!
RIIIP!
HEY MAN, WANNA COME OVER AND JOIN THE PARTY, MAN?!? HUH?!
THE URGE TO KILL
XXX
I GUESS NOT, EH BWAH!
LATER, DUDE
MY FAVORITE POSTER.

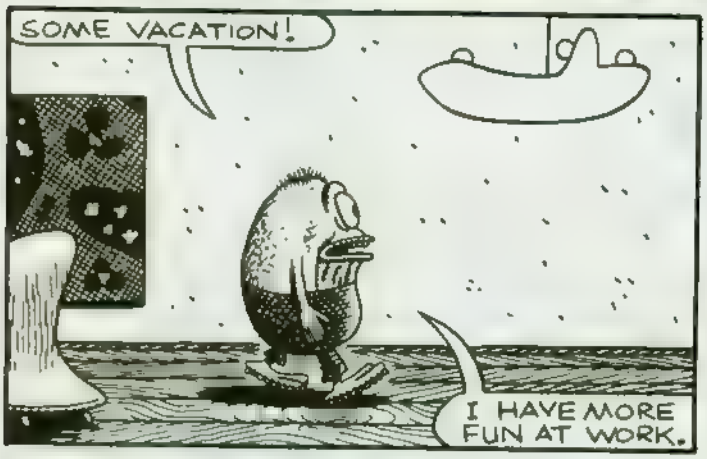
SLOWLY I TURN AND QUICKLY I...
CRACK!
I WISH I HAD A GUN!! NO, BETTER YET, I'LL JUST GO NEXT DOOR AND STRANGLE HIM.
THAT WAY I CAN FEEL HIS WINDPIPE CRUSH WHILE I SQUEEZE IT WITH MY VERY OWN FINGERS!!
KNOK! KNOK!
WHAT CAN I DO YOU FOR, MAN?
WELL...
YOU CAN... DIE!
HUH?
GO MAN GO!
SURE YA DON' WANNA SHTAY FER ONE LIL DRINK?
TEE HEE!
HAPPY LANDINGS BUDDY!
XXX
THERE GOES ONE HUNG UP CAT!

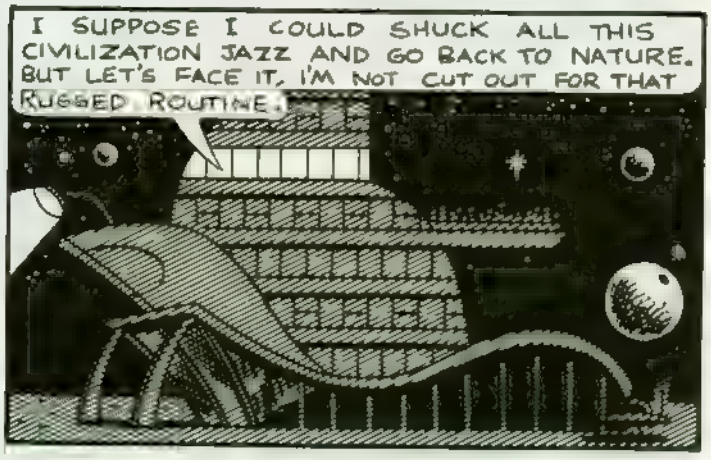

KRASH!
BONK!

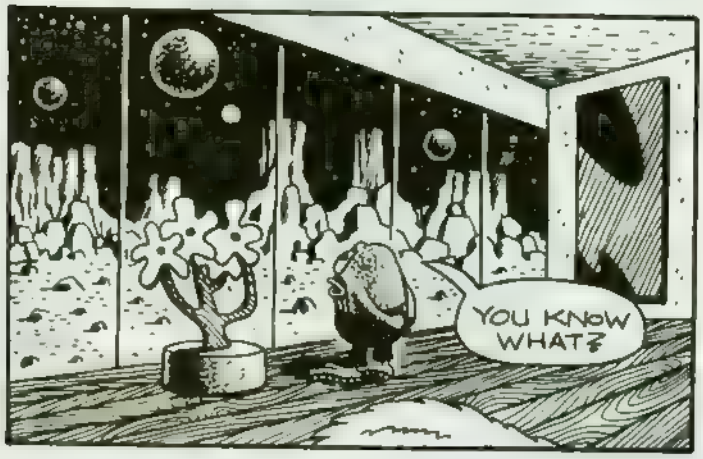

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
UNGH...

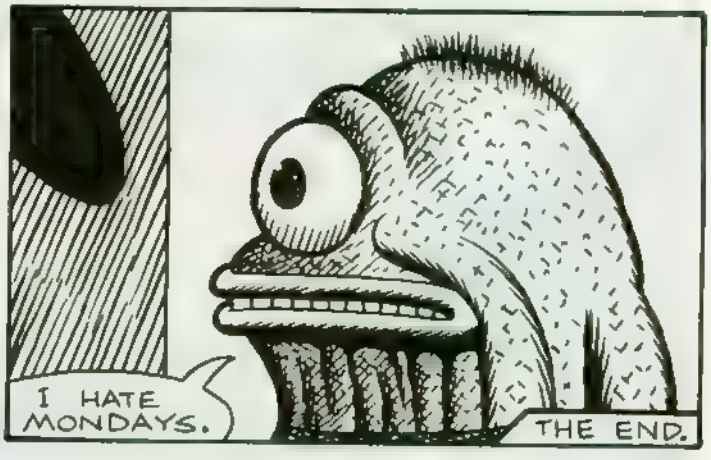

SO THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR SIX ORBITS OF NON-STOP HARD WORK.


SOME "DREAM APARTMENT"!
CLICK
I SHOULDVE SAVED MY MONEY!


SOME VACATION!
I HAVE MORE FUN AT WORK.


I SUPPOSE I COULD SHUCK ALL THIS CIVILIZATION JAZZ AND GO BACK TO NATURE. BUT LET'S FACE IT, I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR THAT RUGGED ROUTINE.


YOU KNOW WHAT?


I HATE MONDAYS.
THE END.

Story By: Edifice von Karpat
Drawings By: P. Buffin
All about Zaza!
GIVE ME A Z! GIVE ME AN A! ... LET'S HEAR IT FOR ZAZA, THE GREATEST BROADWAY STAR EVER!
YOU ARE SO KIND!
I LOVE YOU, ZAZA! I HAVE NEVER DESIRED A WOMAN THIS MUCH! PLEASE SAY YOU'LL MARRY ME!
I CAN'T, GUS
WHY NOT? ALL I KNOW IS THAT I LOVE YOU! I WANT TO BE WITH YOU!
LISTEN... I'M NOT WHO YOU THINK I AM....
... I WAS BORN IN A RAT RIDDEN APARTMENT ON NEW YORK'S LOWER EASTSIDE. MY FATHER MADE A BEELINE OUT OF THERE THE MINUTE HE KNOCKED MY MOTHER UP

THE HATRED THAT SHE FELT TOWARDS HIM WAS SEVERE ALL I EVER HEARD FROM HER WAS HOW HORRIBLE MEN WERE!
SUFFICE IT TO SAY, I LEAD A VERY ODD CHILDHOOD. I WAS NEVER ONE OF THE "GANG."
MARIA!
THE YEARS WENT BY ... NO ONE REALLY KNEW ME. ALL I EVER WANTED TO DO WAS BE ON BROADWAY.
7897

I'M SINGING IN THE RAIN. JUST SINGING IN THE RAIN. WHAT A WONDERFUL FEELING, I'M HAPPY AGAIN!
SUDDENLY, I WAS ZAZA! PEOPLE LOVED ME! THEY WANTED ME!
DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND! HOW CAN I EVER THANK YOU, MY LOVE?
I REALLY HAVE MADE IT NOW!

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN THE BACKSTAGE AND THE STAGE IS VERY SHORT
AND I STEPPED ACROSS IT!
WHO IS SHE... THE BIONIC WOMAN???
THAT JERK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND HOW BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE. I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU THE GREATEST STAR THIS TOWN HAS EVER SEEN.
IF MEN PREFER BLONDES...
...WELL, THAT'S THEIR PROBLEM!
BELIEVE ME... IT'S NOT BECAUSE I DON'T LIKE YOU. OR THAT I DON'T WANT TO... OR, OF COURSE, THAT I DON'T KNOW HOW TO...

I HELD MYSELF BACK FROM LOVE, BUT I DOVE HEAD FIRST INTO FAME!
A STAR WAS BORN... ME!
I WAS ON THE COVER OF ALL THE BIG MAGAZINES!
LIFE
Stars
WHY DID WE HAVE TO MEET? I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A SOFT SPOT FOR SAX PLAYERS!

YOU ALWAYS TREATED ME LIKE A REAL LADY-- YOU HAVE BEEN SO WONDERFUL TO ME!
BUT, BUS... BUS! YOU HAD TO REALIZE THAT I'M A MAN!
IS THAT ALL? SO WHAT! NO ONE'S PERFECT!
FIN

LATELY, IT SEEMS YOU CAN HARDLY PICK UP A MAGAZINE WITHOUT FINDING ONE FEATURED PROMINENTLY... YOU CAN BARELY TUNE INTO A T.V. TALK SHOW BEFORE THE DISCUSSION TURNS TO THEM... *AND SO WE ASK--*

WHAT IS IT WITH THE BUS?

CONSIDER...

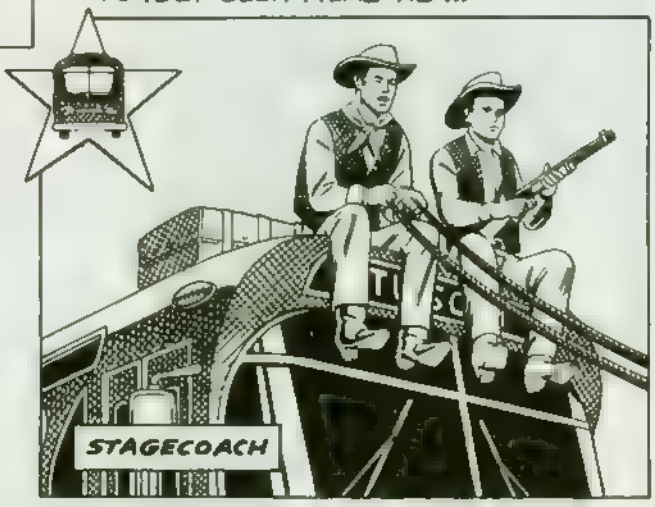
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1957 ***BUS DRIVER*** IS THE LEADING VOCATIONAL CHOICE OF HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS SURVEYED...

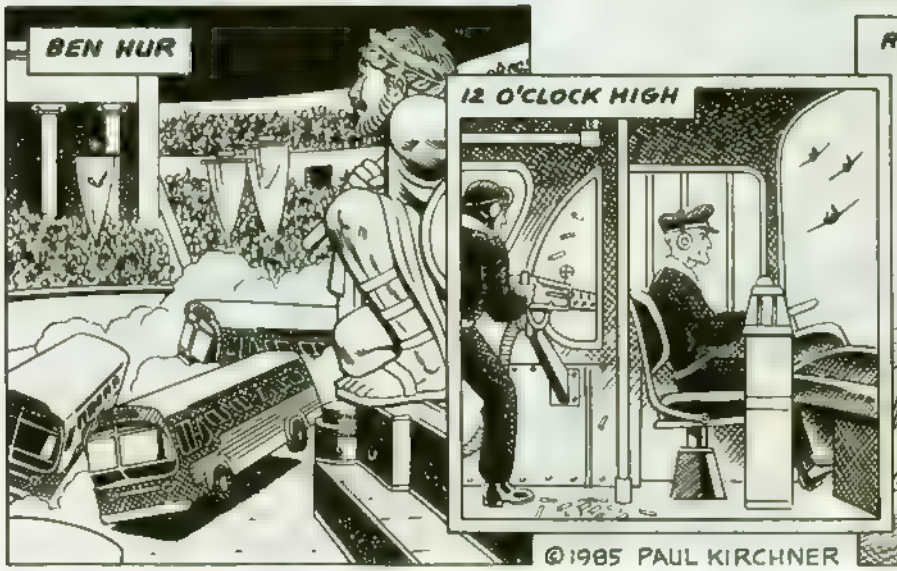
TIME MAGAZINE BROKE TRADITION BY CHOOSING A MUNICIPAL BUS FROM AMES, IOWA, FOR ITS YEARLY "MAN OF THE YEAR" ISSUE...

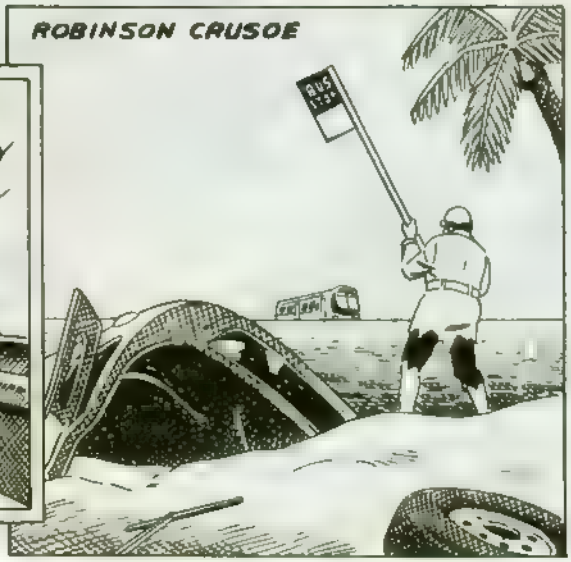
MILLIONAIRE ***MALCOLM FORBES*** SWAPPED HIS CHAUFFEUR-DRIVEN STRETCH LIMO FOR A ROOMIER "BUS-FOR-ONE"...

HOLLYWOOD, OF COURSE, WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO CAPITALIZE ON THIS ENTHUSIASM... NO ONE WILL SOON FORGET SUCH FILMS AS ...

IN CAR-CONSCIOUS CALIFORNIA, CUSTOMIZED BUSES ARE ALREADY A COMMON SIGHT!







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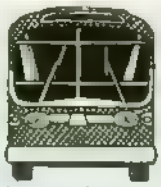
YET LET US NOT FORGET THAT THERE ARE MANY AMONGST US, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS, WHO HAVE ONLY THE MOST RUDIMENTARY NOTION OF WHAT A BUS ACTUALLY *IS*. FOR THEM, THE FOLLOWING INTRODUCTION.

VITAL STATISTICS...*

FRONT



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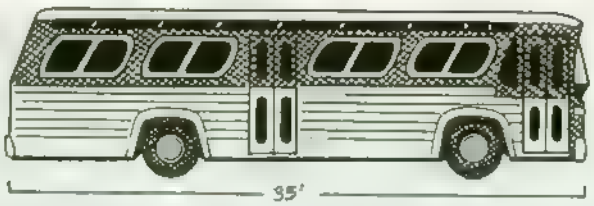
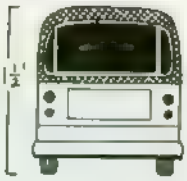
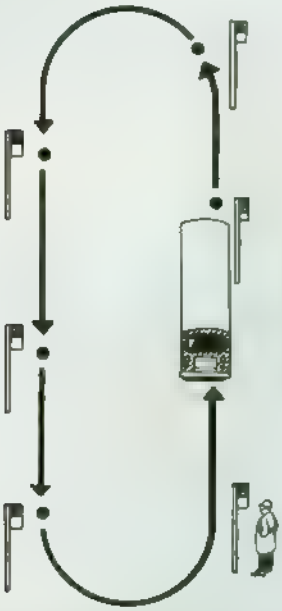


BACK



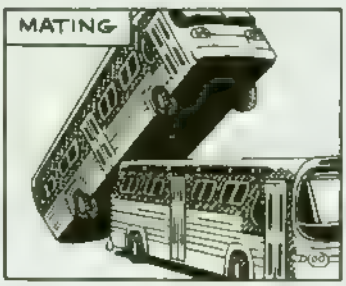
*REMEMBER THAT THESE FIGURES ARE BASED ON STATISTICAL NORMS. INDIVIDUAL VARIATIONS MAY BE CONSIDERABLE. FOR EXAMPLE, DEPENDING ON AGE AND BUILD, A BUS MAY WEIGH ANYWHERE FROM SEVERAL HUNDRED TO 40,000 POUNDS!

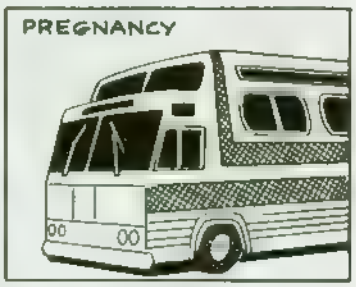
ITS FUNCTION...

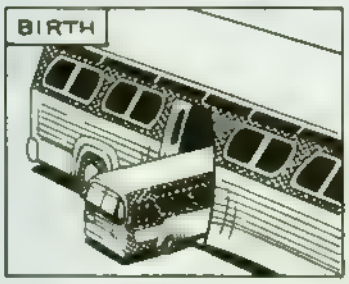


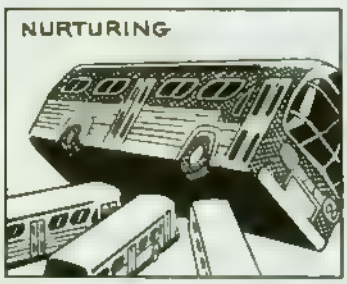
THE BUS FOLLOWS A SET ROUTE, STOPPING FREQUENTLY AT DESIGNATED POINTS.

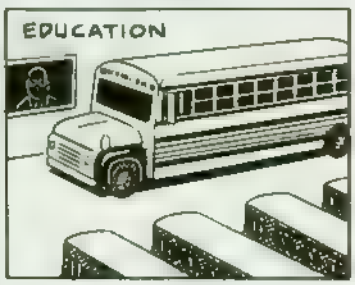
PROCREATION AND UPBRINGING...







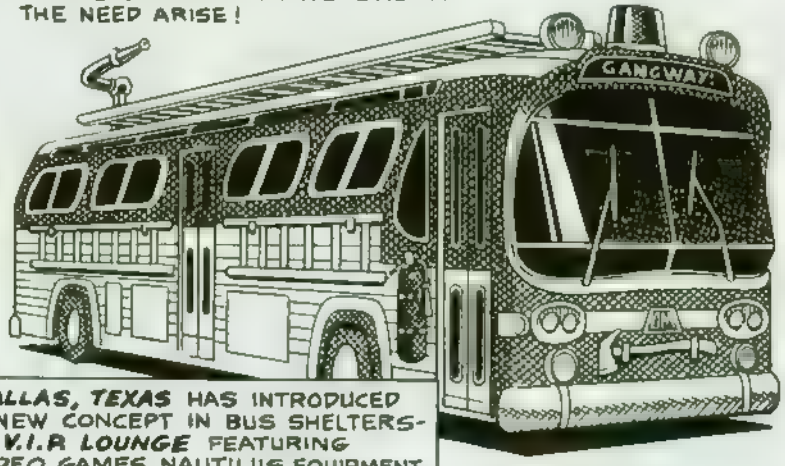




NEW CONCEPTS IN THE BUS ARE KEEPING THIS AGE-OLD FRIEND OF MAN IN STEP WITH THE TIMES!

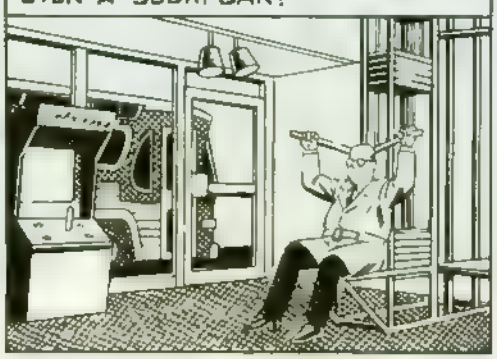
IN ***NEW YORK***, BUSES ARE GOING ***CONDO***--AS A PART OWNER OF A BUS, YOU PAY ONLY A MAINTENANCE FEE OF PERHAPS $3 A RIDE--AND YOU CAN RENT OUT YOUR SEAT WHEN YOU'RE NOT USING IT!

BOSTON, MASS... RATHER THAN TIE UP CITY FUNDS IN LITTLE-USED EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT, BUSES DOUBLE AS ***FIRE ENGINES***, WITH COMMUTERS BRIEFED IN THE BASICS OF FIREFIGHTING SHOULD THE NEED ARISE!



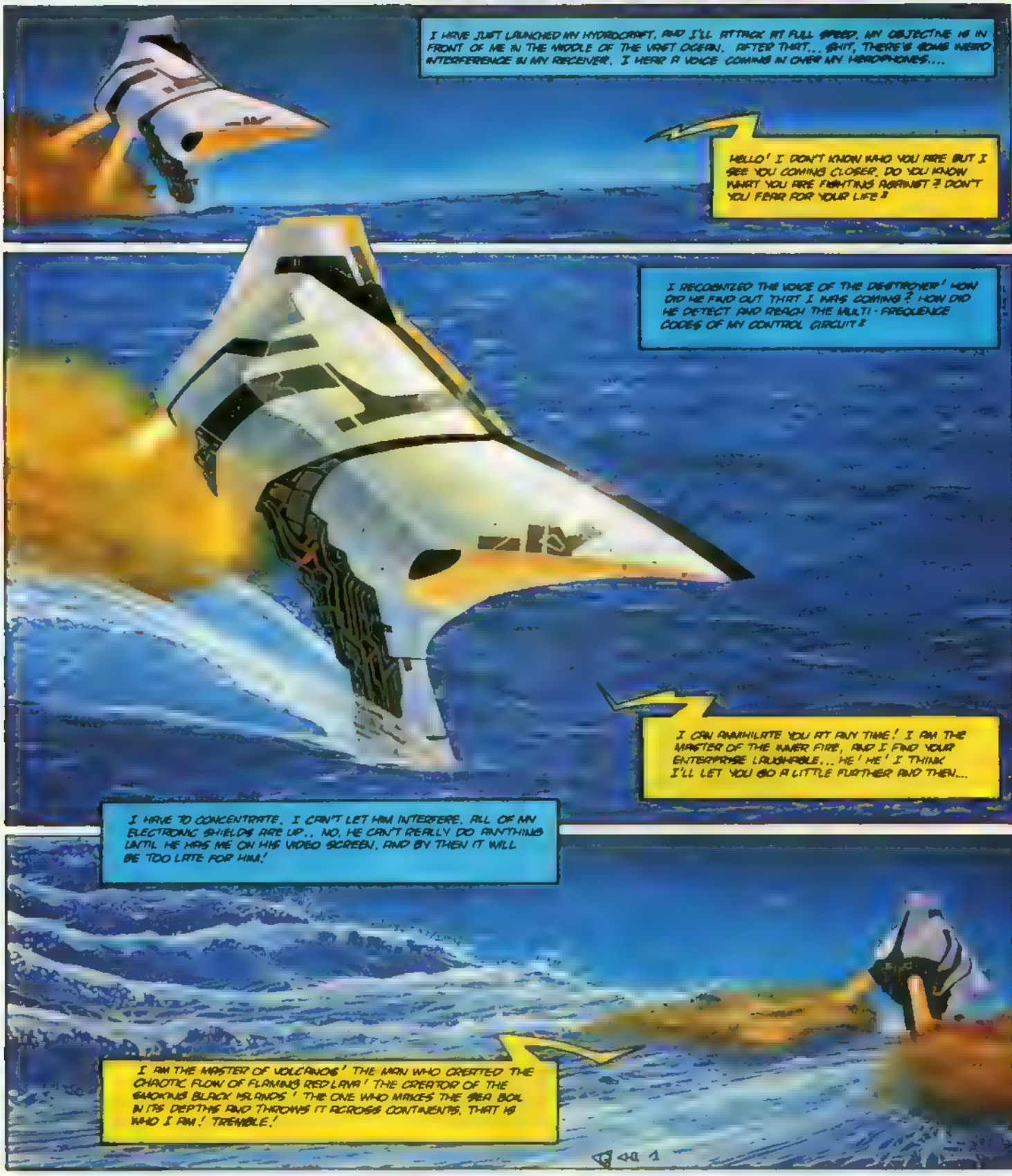
IN ***DAYTON, OHIO***, BUS TRAVEL IS ***FREE!*** THE SYSTEM TURNS A PROFIT BY LEASING AISLE SEATS TO REAL ESTATE PROMOTERS, INSURANCE SALESMEN, AND SPOKESMEN FOR THE UNIFICATION CHURCH!

DALLAS, TEXAS HAS INTRODUCED A NEW CONCEPT IN BUS SHELTERS--A ***V.I.P. LOUNGE*** FEATURING VIDEO GAMES, NAUTILUS EQUIPMENT, EVEN A SUSHI BAR!

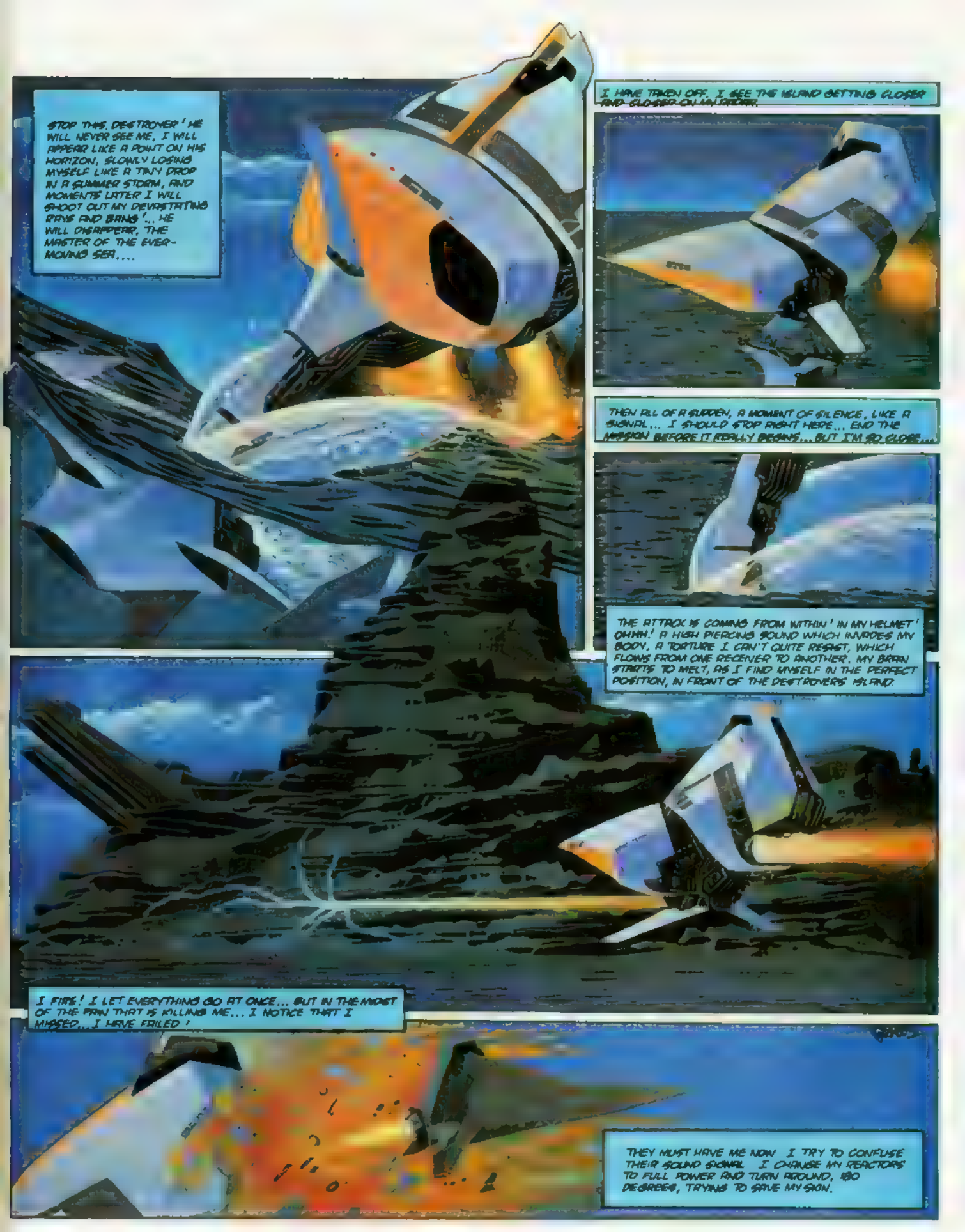


IT HAS NOT BEEN THE PURPOSE OF THIS ARTICLE TO MAKE VALUE JUDGEMENTS ON THE COMPLEX AND CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES RAISED HEREIN. TO ITS SUPPORTERS, THE BUS REPRESENTS ALL THAT IS GOOD IN THE AMERICAN SPIRIT...TO ITS CRITICS, IT EPITOMIZES THE WORST ASPECTS OF CONTEMPORARY LIFE. SUFFICE IT TO SAY THAT, LIKE IT OR NOT, ***BUSES ARE HERE TO STAY!***

ELOFELL


I HAVE JUST LAUNCHED MY HYDROCRAFT, AND I'LL ATTACK AT FULL SPEED. MY OBJECTIVE IS IN FRONT OF ME IN THE MIDDLE OF THE VAST OCEAN. AFTER THAT... SHIT, THERE'S SOME WEIRD INTERFERENCE IN MY RECEIVER. I HEAR A VOICE COMING IN OVER MY HEADPHONES....
HELLO! I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE BUT I SEE YOU COMING CLOSER. DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU ARE FIGHTING AGAINST? DON'T YOU FEAR FOR YOUR LIFE?
I RECOGNIZED THE VOICE OF THE DESTROYER! HOW DID HE FIND OUT THAT I WAS COMING? HOW DID HE DETECT AND REACH THE MULTI-FREQUENCE CODES OF MY CONTROL CIRCUIT?
I CAN ANNIHILATE YOU AT ANY TIME! I AM THE MASTER OF THE INNER FIRE, AND I FIND YOUR ENTERPRISE LAUGHABLE... HE! HE! I THINK I'LL LET YOU GO A LITTLE FURTHER AND THEN...
I HAVE TO CONCENTRATE. I CAN'T LET HIM INTERFERE. ALL OF MY ELECTRONIC SHIELDS ARE UP.. NO, HE CAN'T REALLY DO ANYTHING UNTIL HE HAS ME ON HIS VIDEO SCREEN, AND BY THEN IT WILL BE TOO LATE FOR HIM!
I AM THE MASTER OF VOLCANOS! THE MAN WHO CREATED THE CHAOTIC FLOW OF FLAMING RED LAVA! THE CREATOR OF THE SMOKING BLACK ISLANDS! THE ONE WHO MAKES THE SEA BOIL IN ITS DEPTHS AND THROWS IT ACROSS CONTINENTS. THAT IS WHO I AM! TREMBLE!
44 1

written by Imbert
illustrated by Gauckler


STOP THIS, DESTROYER ! HE WILL NEVER SEE ME, I WILL APPEAR LIKE A POINT ON HIS HORIZON, SLOWLY LOSING MYSELF LIKE A TINY DROP IN A SUMMER STORM, AND MOMENTS LATER I WILL SHOOT OUT MY DEVASTATING RAYS AND BANG !... HE WILL DISAPPEAR, THE MASTER OF THE EVER-MOVING SEA....
I HAVE TAKEN OFF. I SEE THE ISLAND GETTING CLOSER AND CLOSER ON MY RADAR.
THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, A MOMENT OF SILENCE, LIKE A SIGNAL... I SHOULD STOP RIGHT HERE... END THE MISSION BEFORE IT REALLY BEGINS... BUT I'M SO CLOSE...
THE ATTRACTION IS COMING FROM WITHIN ! IN MY HELMET ! OHHH ! A HIGH PIERCING SOUND WHICH INVADES MY BODY, A TORTURE I CAN'T QUITE RESIST, WHICH FLOWS FROM ONE RECEIVER TO ANOTHER, MY BRAIN STARTS TO MELT, AS I FIND MYSELF IN THE PERFECT POSITION, IN FRONT OF THE DESTROYER'S ISLAND
I FIRE ! I LET EVERYTHING GO AT ONCE... BUT IN THE MIDST OF THE PAIN THAT IS KILLING ME... I NOTICE THAT I MISSED... I HAVE FAILED !
THEY MUST HAVE ME NOW. I TRY TO CONFUSE THEIR SOUND SIGNAL. I CHANGE MY REACTORS' TO FULL POWER AND TURN AROUND, 180 DEGREES, TRYING TO SAVE MY SKIN.

I'M CLIMBING.... I SEE ON MY SCREEN THAT I'M BEING FOLLOWED BY MISSILES SO I TURN ON ALL MY POWER, AND WITH A JUMP I'M OUT OF THEIR REACH. I GO STRAIGHT AHEAD.. THEY'LL FOLLOW ME NOW FOR 500 MILES, FOR A GOOD 10 MINUTES AT LEAST.

MY FUEL RESERVES WON'T LAST LONG AT MACH 3. I'VE LEFT MY PURSUERS BEHIND, BUT NOW I'VE GOT TO FIND A LANDING SPOT. THE DESTROYER IS A COSMIC BANDIT ! MY ATTACK HAS FAILED AND NOBODY ELSE WILL DARE APPROACH HIM EITHER FROM AIR OR SEA.

I'M LOST IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN I LOOK AT MY GEOSCOPIC SCREEN TO SEE IF I CAN SELECT A DESTINATION. THE CLOSEST ONE IS:

"...ELDFELL..."

A SMALL ISLAND BEATEN BY THE WINDS... WITH VERY LITTLE VEGETATION... AND A SMALL SETTLEMENT OF HUMANS... WHO LIVE REMOVED FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD...

I HAVE NO CHOICE; THE SKY GETS DARKER AND DARKER, AND THE SEA STARTS SWELLING. I GET IN TOUCH WITH MY TEAM AND ARRANGE A MEETING AT ELDFELL. AFTER ALL, IT'S JUST LIKE ANY OTHER PLACE.

THE SATELLITE TAKES IN MY MESSAGE AND I START GETTING CLOSER. THOUGH THE WAVES ARE GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER. PRETTY SOON A REAL STORM DEVELOPS, THE NIGHT FALLS AND THE WAVES BECOME GIGANTIC !

LUCKILY, I START DRIFTING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, I TRY TO FLY WHEN THE STORM LETS DOWN A LITTLE, BUT THESE MOMENTS OF FLIGHT ARE EXTREMELY FATIGUING, MY ENGINE STARTS TO LOSE SOME OF ITS STRENGTH....

I START THE AUTOMATIC PILOT, WHEN DAWN COMES I DOZE OFF FOR A WHILE ... THE SEA BECOMES CALM AGAIN.

I AM DREAMING. I DREAM THAT GABRIELLE HAS ARRIVED AND IS KISSING ME AND TELLING ME TO WAKE UP. IT'S THE KIND OF A DREAM ONE WOULD WISH TO HAVE ALL THE TIME.

HEY, I'M TALKING TO YOU!

AND IF I JUST CONCENTRATE, I CAN TRANSFORM MY DREAM INTO AN EROTIC FANTASY. AT THIS POINT I REALIZE THAT I'M AWAKE.

THAT'S ALL YOU EVER THINK OF! JUST WAIT AND SEE, MY DEAR!

SHE GIVES ME A PUSH AND I FALL, AND NEARLY DROWN IN TWO FEET OF WATER. I'VE RUN AGROUND, BUT I'VE ARRIVED, AND I'M AWAKE.

HE, HE! JUST LOOK AT HIS FACE!!

I HAVE NEVER SEEN YOU IN THIS OUTFIT, MY CHARMING WARRIOR!

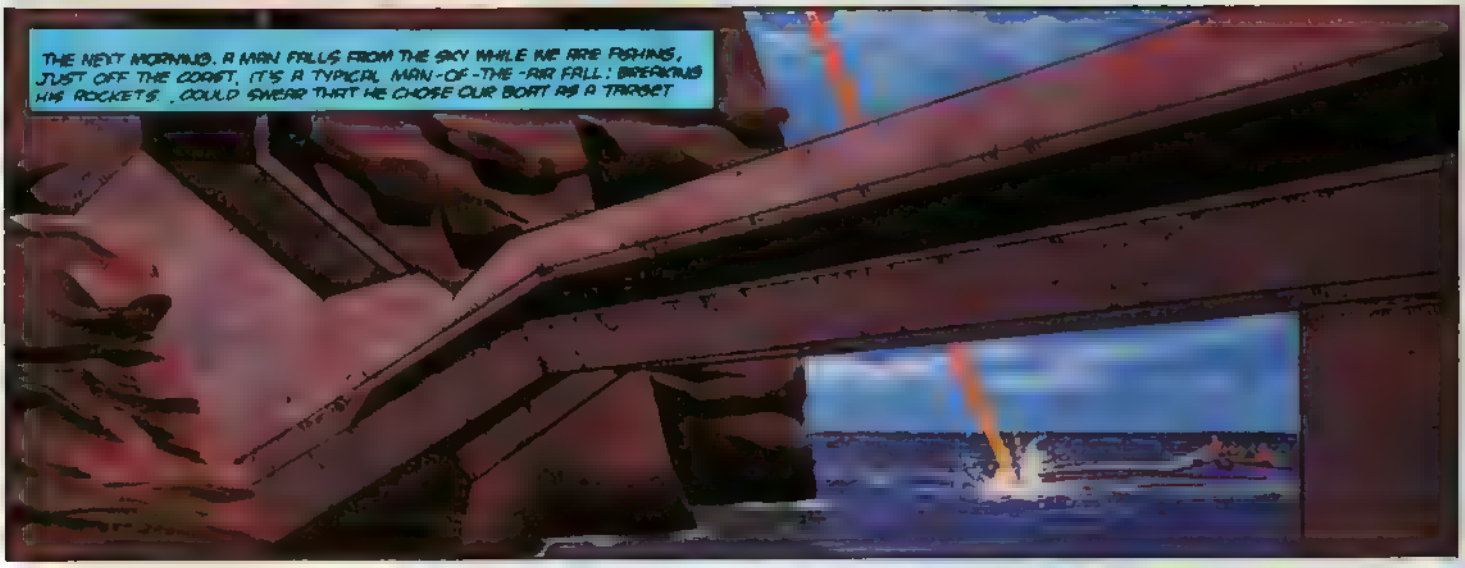
HOLD YOUR FIRE, YOUNG MAN!

THEY ARRIVED HERE BEFORE ME. BENJI IS LYING ON THE BEACH AND TRYING TO GET A TAN.

DURING THE NIGHT, MESSAGES REPORTING THE STATUS OF THE ATTACK ON THE DESTROYER HAVE GONE BACK AND FORTH. WE HAVE TO GO TO THE CENTRAL MEETING PLACE, THE SQUARE OF ALL POWER, WHERE THE LOCAL POPULATION IS GOING TO GIVE US A HEROES WELCOME. I LEAVE MY SHIP BEHIND, AND CLIMB INTO BENJI'S AND GABRIELLE'S FALCOPADE
I REALLY HADN'T THOUGHT THAT ALL THIS WOULD HAPPEN. THE ELITE AND THE LOCAL POPULATION HAVE GREETED US WITH HONORS AND RESPECT, WITH A STUNNING CEREMONY. WE GAVE A LITTLE SPEECH WE ARE THE ONES TRYING TO SAVE THEM FROM COSMIC DANGER....
I AM A MAN OF THE AIR I BELONG TO THOSE PEOPLE AND I AM PROUD TO BE THE BEST AMONG THEM IN DESTROYING THE ISS BIRDS. MY NAME IS BENJAMIN SINGER FREE FALL HAS NO SECRETS FOR ME AND FROM HIGH IN THE SKY I WILL COME DOWN TO KILL THE DESTROYER.
I AM THE ONE WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE THREE-QUARTER ATTACK. I KNOW BETTER THAN ANYBODY HOW TO WORK THE HYDRAULIC DIVING SUITS, AND I WILL GO AND SEARCH FOR THE DESTROYER'S PEOPLE DOWN IN THE VERY HEART OF HIS VOLCANO.
I COME FROM HYPER-ICE. UNDERGROUND CITIES AND PLASMA RESERVOIRS ARE MY UNIVERSE. I AM A FAMOUS PILOT AND I'VE JUST COME BACK FROM AN ATTACK ON THE DESTROYER BUT I AM READY TO GO BACK IMMEDIATELY TO CRUSH AND ANNIHILATE HIM!
VOL. 5
THE PEOPLE STARTED CLAPPING. THEY DON'T REALIZE THAT AT THIS VERY MOMENT THE DESTROYER IS PROBABLY LOOKING FOR THE SLIGHTEST TRACE OF MY WHEREABOUTS TO TRY AND SWALLOW US IN THE FIRES OF HIS HELL!

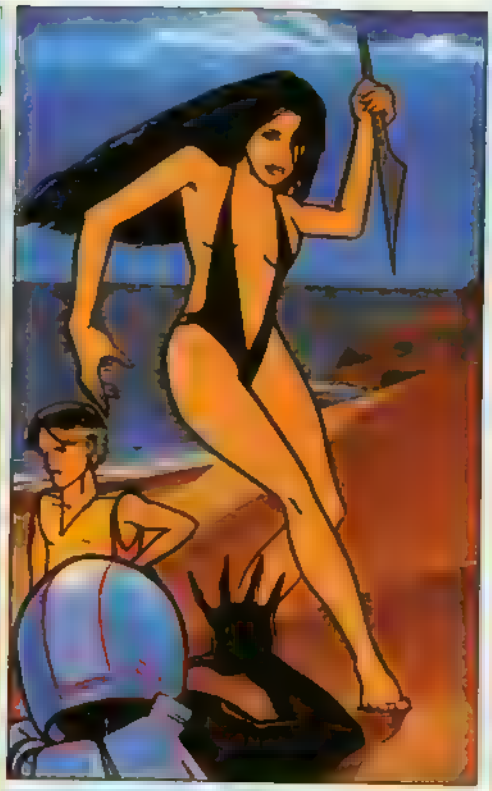
AH, YES ! I THINK OF IT NOW, AND I REALIZE THAT WE KNEW WE WERE IN GREAT DANGER BUT AT THE SAME TIME... TIME SLOWLY WENT BY ENDURING LONG AND HAPPY DAYS. GABRIELLE WAS RELAXED AND I WAS GRATEFUL FOR OUR MOMENTS OF FRIENDLY COMPLICITY... BERTRAN, CONTEMPLATIVE AS ALWAYS, SPENT HIS TIME HUNTING AND FISHING ON THE ISLAND WHILE MY COMPANION AND I PRACTICED ANOTHER KIND OF PURSUIT... WE HAD COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN THE DESTROYER....

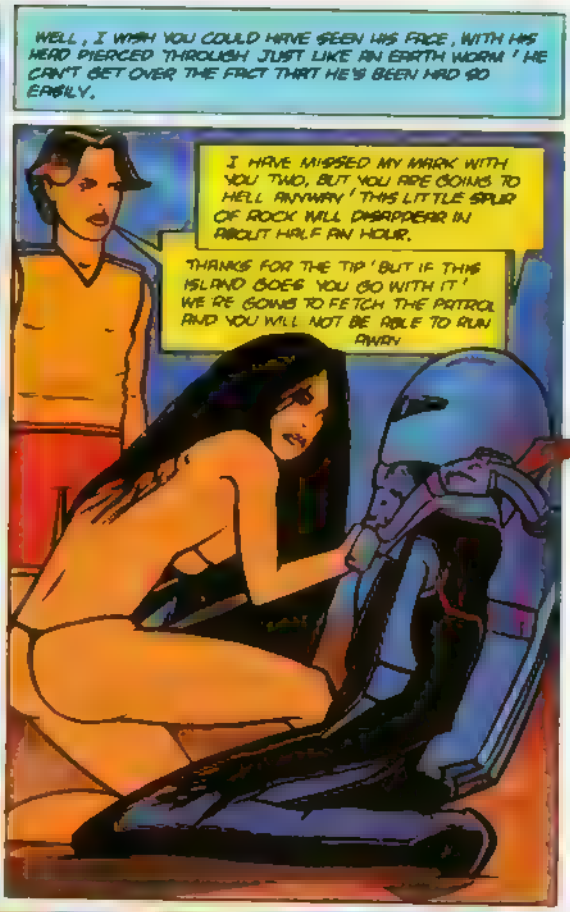
HOWEVER, ONE FINE MORNING, WE SPOT A COLUMN OF SMOKE ON THE HORIZON. IT IS CERTAINLY HIS DOING, BUT THE THREAT STILL SEEMS TO BE FAR AWAY...


THE NEXT MORNING, A MAN FALLS FROM THE SKY WHILE WE ARE FISHING, JUST OFF THE COAST. IT'S A TYPICAL MAN-OF-THE-AIR FALL: BREAKING HIS ROCKETS. COULD SWEAR THAT HE CHOSE OUR BOAT AS A TARGET

HE CLIMBS ON BOARD, AND STARTS ASKING US OUR NAMES. HE SEEMS A LITTLE TOO HAPPY TO HAVE FOUND US
WHERE DID THIS STRANGE MAN COME FROM? WHEN WE GET TO THE BEACH HE TAKES SOME OF HIS FISHING GUNS WITH HIM. I STAY BEHIND TO PULL THE BOAT UP ON THE BEACH, AND I KNOW I'VE HEARD THAT VOICE BEFORE...
BUT WHAT CAN A WOMAN SOLDIER HAVE IN HER STOMACH?
GUESS!
THAT VOICE! I NOW KNOW WHERE I HAVE HEARD IT BEFORE! IT IS THE VOICE OF THE DESTROYER!

WHEN I GET TO THE TOP OF THE DUNE, IT'S ALL OVER ALREADY. HE TRIED TO SET A TRAP FOR GABRIELLE.


SHE THRUSTS HER HARPOON STRAIGHT INTO HIS NECK, PINNING HIM DOWN TO THE GROUND, RIGHT THROUGH THE VULNERABLE SPOT IN HIS DIVING SUIT


WELL, I WISH YOU COULD HAVE SEEN HIS FACE, WITH HIS HEAD PIERCED THROUGH JUST LIKE AN EARTH WORM! HE CAN'T GET OVER THE FACT THAT HE'S BEEN HAD SO EASILY.
I HAVE MISSED MY MARK WITH YOU TWO, BUT YOU ARE GOING TO HELL ANYWAY! THIS LITTLE SPUR OF ROCK WILL DISAPPEAR IN ABOUT HALF AN HOUR.
THANKS FOR THE TIP! BUT IF THIS ISLAND GOES YOU GO WITH IT! WE'RE GOING TO FETCH THE PATROL AND YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RUN AWAY

HIS WOUND MAKES HIS VOICE SOUND CRAZED. HE WON'T BUDGE ANYMORE. WE SHOULDN'T LEAVE HIM ALONE, BUT GABRIELLE AND I REALLY DON'T WANT TO BE SEPARATED.
THE EARTH STARTS TO VIBRATE. WE FEEL SOMETHING MOVING UNDER OUR FEET, IN THE DEEPEST OF DEEPS. SOMEWHAT ANXIOUS, I JUMP INTO FALCOSPADE AFTER GABRIELLE WHILE WE GO TOWARD THE CITY. THE NOISE GETS LOUDER AND LOUDER. WE BOTH GET THE URGE TO GO BACK AND FINISH OFF THE DESTROYER.

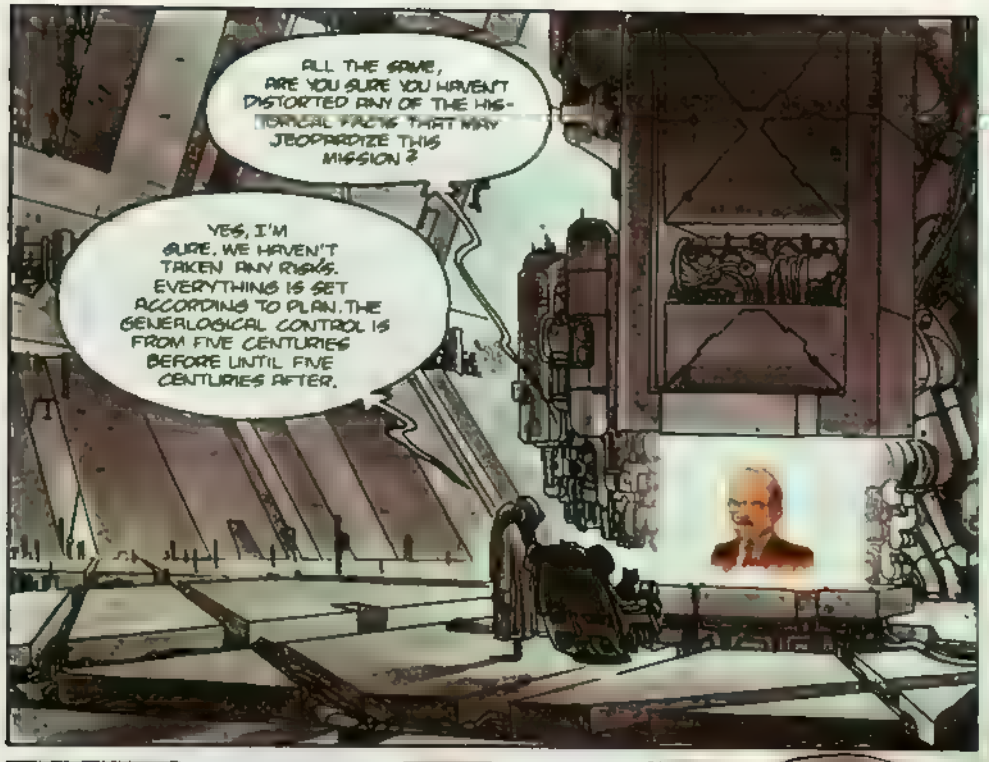
IN THE CITY, PANIC REIGNS. WE CAN'T SEEM TO FIND BENJ AT THE RESIDENCE, AND ALREADY BIG CRACKS START OPENING UP IN THE GROUND, FROM WHICH COME EVIL SMELLING VAPORS AND OMINOUS SOUNDS.
IT'S SHEER HELL! SOMEBODY MUST HAVE SAVED THE DESTROYER. BUT WE CANNOT POSSIBLY GO BACK UNARMED TO CONFRONT THIS DEMON. FALCOPRIDE IS TOO FRAGILE, WE HAVE TO FIND SOME SPACE SUITS.
I HAVE JUST FINISHED PUTTING ON MY SUIT, WHEN THE BUILDING CRUMBLES DOWN ON MY HEAD. I'M BURIED UNDERNEATH A MOUND OF DEBRIS. BUT I GET UP WITH GREAT EFFORT.
ENGINES ON. WE TRY TO GET OUT OF THIS MESS. I MANAGE TO GET OUT OF THE RUINS, AND I START CLIMBING.
A SHORT FLIGHT OVER THE CITY OF FLAMES! ALL THE SYSTEMS ARE EXPLODING, AND GREAT CREVICES ARE OPENING UP ALL OVER THE ISLAND. WE GLIDE TOWARD THE OCEAN AS THE COAST DISAPPEARS UNDER A CLOUD OF SMOKE AND VAPOR. WE CAN'T SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING ANYMORE. OUR PREY IS SOMEWHERE IN THAT CHAOS, BUT WHERE?

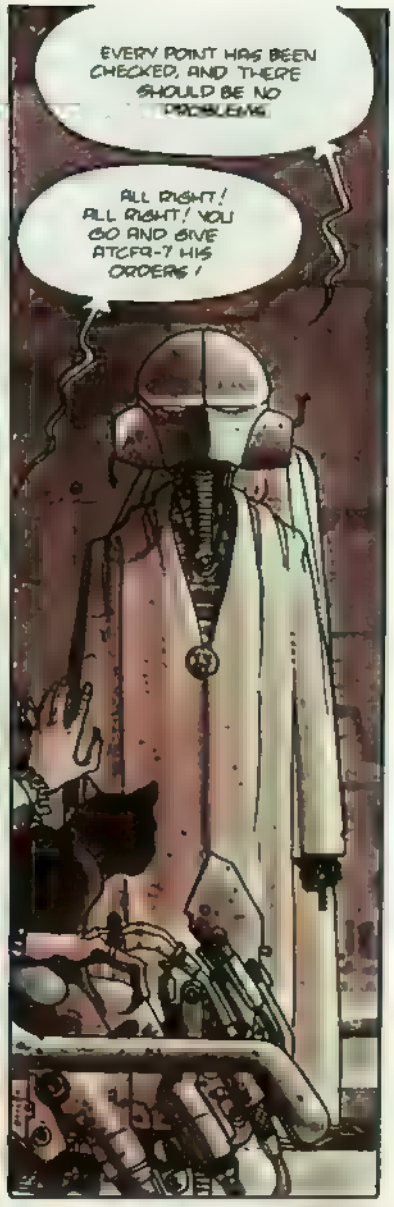
SOMETHING STRANGE DISTURBING THE ELECTRONES OF THE IONOSPHERE, AND A MAGNETIC STORM IS ABOUT TO START. THE RADIO ISN'T WORKING ANYMORE AND THE LAST MESSAGE WE GET COMES FROM BENJ WHO IS LEAVING THE ISLAND ON A LIFEBOAT.
A GREAT WOUND HAS OPENED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ISLAND, AND THE SEA RUSHES IN! LET'S LEAVE! IT IS A TRAGIC SPECTACLE.... BUT AS WE GO FURTHER, THE POINTS ON THE COMPASS START DISPERSE AIMLESS. ELECTRICITY MAKES MY HAIR STICK TO MY HELMET, THINGS START TO LOSE THEIR SOLIDITY, BECOME FLUID, THEN DISPERSE AND IONIZE.... NOTHING BUT VAGUE SHAPES ARE LEFT....
UNDER US, THINGS ARE GOING FROM BAD TO WORSE: GREAT WAVES BEAT AGAINST THE ISLAND, WHICH IS SLOWLY BEING SUBMERGED BY BOILING TIDES... AND THE SKY SENDS DOWN ITS TORRENTS OF RAIN AND ITS MILLIONS OF FLASHES OF LIGHTNING. THE WORLD IS GOING CRAZY....
THE WORLD HEAVES IN PAIN, REGRESSING TO CHAOS, AND I REPEAT SOME OF SOPHOCLES' VERSES TO MYSELF: "IT WOULD BE A HUNDRED TIMES BETTER NEVER TO HAVE BEEN BORN; BUT FAILING THAT, THE BEST THING WOULD BE, AFTER HAVING SEEN THE LIGHT, TO GO BACK WHENCE WE CAME."
THEN, SUDDENLY, WE'RE OUT OF THE STORM. UNDER US THE SEA EXTENDS ITS GREY MASS TO THE HORIZON; WE'RE ONCE AGAIN FLYING IN THE CLEAR, TRANSPARENT AIR
BENJ COMES TOWARD US... WE'RE SAFE! THE THOUSANDS OF DEAD ARE FORGOTTEN, ALONG WITH THE DESTROYER! WE LAND AND INFLATE A RUBBER BOAT... "AND WE LIVE A LIFE OF ERSE, EVERY ONE OF US HAS ALL HE PLEASES; SKY OF BLUE AND SEA OF GREEN, IN OUR YELLOW SUBMARINE..." WHO SAID THAT ANYWAY, JACK? THAT'S THE STORY-- WORD FOR WORD! OVER AND OUT!

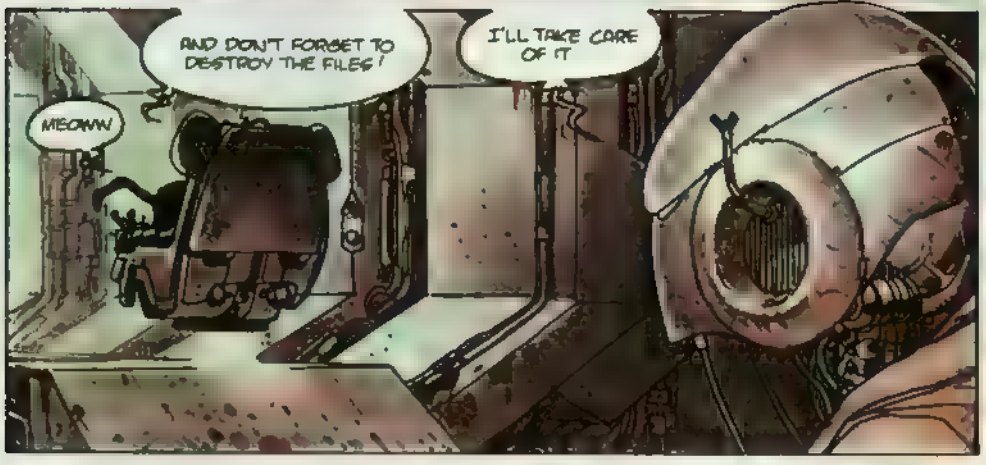
MATTER OF TIME EXPRESS

© JUAN GIMENEZ
ARE YOU SURE THAT'S OUR MAN? NO CHANCE OF MISTAKE?
NO!
NOT A CHANCE. THIS DEPARTMENT CAN'T AFFORD MISTAKES.
GIMENEZ ©

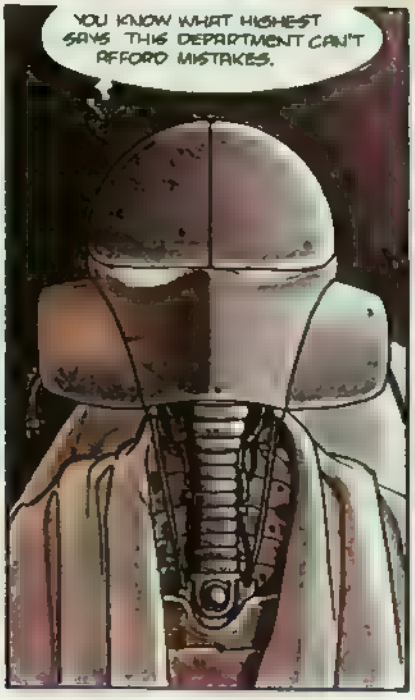
Story and drawings by Juan Gimenez


ALL THE SAME, ARE YOU SURE YOU HAVEN'T DISTORTED ANY OF THE HISTORICAL FACTS THAT MAY JEOPARDIZE THIS MISSION?
YES, I'M SURE. WE HAVEN'T TAKEN ANY RISKS. EVERYTHING IS SET ACCORDING TO PLAN. THE GENEALOGICAL CONTROL IS FROM FIVE CENTURIES BEFORE UNTIL FIVE CENTURIES AFTER.


EVERY POINT HAS BEEN CHECKED, AND THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEMS.
ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT! YOU GO AND GIVE ATCFQ-7 HIS ORDERS!

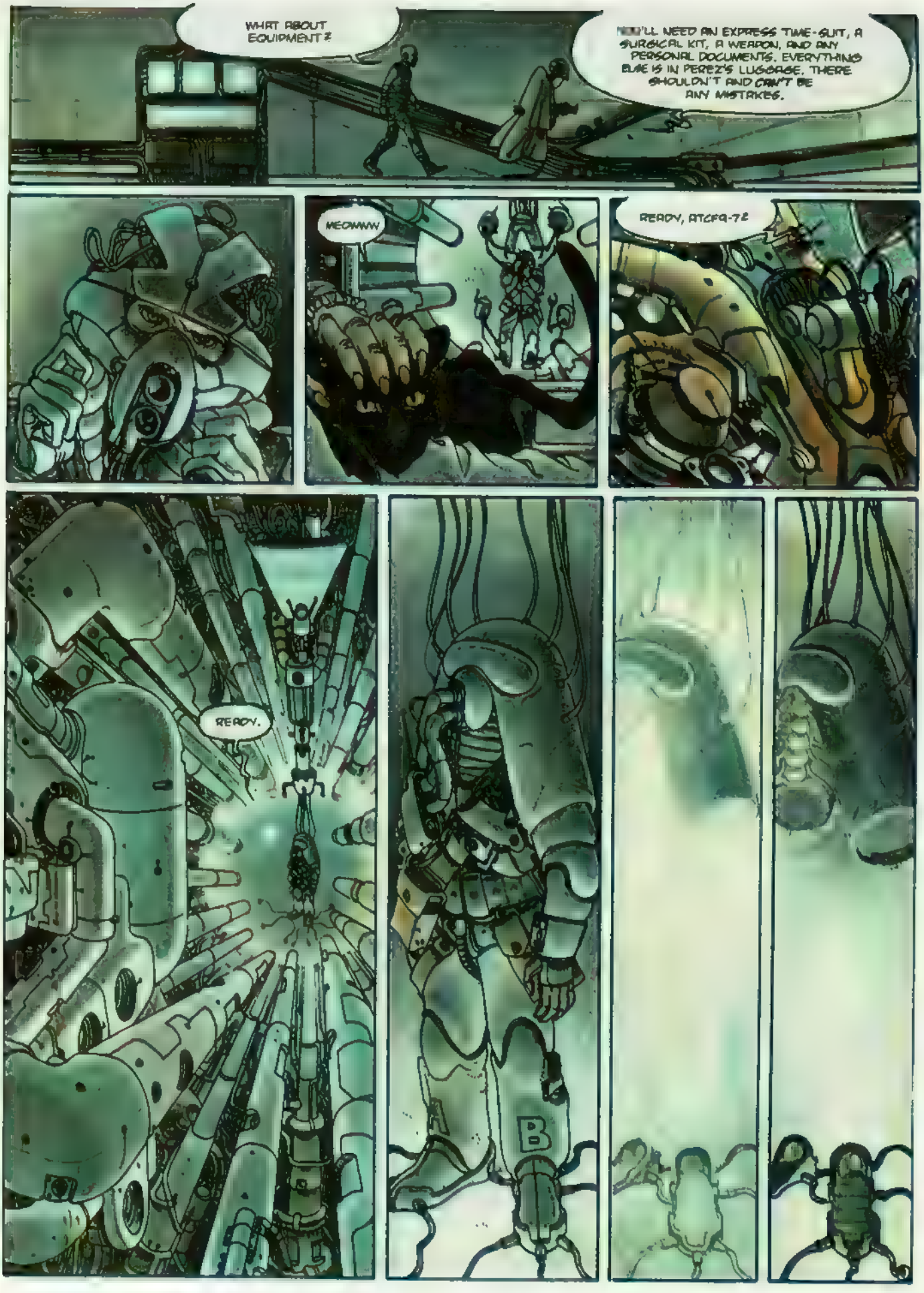

AND DON'T FORGET TO DESTROY THE FILES!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT
MEOWW

THIS IS JUAN PEREZ.
I CAN READ, TINNY. ANY CHANCE OF MISTAKES?


YOU KNOW WHAT HIGHEST SAYS THIS DEPARTMENT CAN'T AFFORD MISTAKES.

WELL, ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'VE HAD ALL SORTS OF PROBLEMS WITH A LOT OF THE CONTRACTS.
MISTAKES ARE A HUMAN WEAKNESS.
SURE.. SURE. LET'S GET IT OVER WITH.

THIS MAN, BORN IN 1953 AND DIED IN 2025, FOUNDED WHAT IS TODAY KNOWN AS THE MULTIPLANETARY
WE MUST CORRECT THE COURSE OF THAT EVENT
JUAN PEREZ WILL BE SUPRESSED IN THE USUAL WAY.
THE EXACT TIME AND DATE IS 3 45 AM ON AUGUST 14TH, 1986 YOU MUST MATCH THE COORDINATES EXACTLY.
FOR CHRIST'S SAKE, WHAT DO YOU TAKE ME FOR?
ONCE THE PROJECT IS UNDER WAY, WE WILL BRING YOU BACK.
RIGHT. AND WHEN WILL PEREZ BE INTERCEPTED.
FAST RTCP-7 LET'S GO TO THE TRANSMISSION ROOM WHILE I FEED YOU MORE DATA.
!?!
YOU WILL BE TRANSPORTED TO A TRAIN CALLED TALGUM... NO TANGO... NO TANGERINE... I DON'T KNOW T-SOMETHING, IN WHICH PEREZ WILL BE TRAVELING FROM PARIS TO MADRID, THE IDEAL PLACE FOR...
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHY HURRY?
WE CAN'T WASTE ANYMORE TIME.
THAT DAMNED TINHEAD QUASIMODUM IS UP TO SOMETHING NASTY!


WHAT ABOUT EQUIPMENT?
YOU'LL NEED AN EXPRESS TIME-SUIT, A SURGICAL KIT, A WEAPON, AND ANY PERSONAL DOCUMENTS. EVERYTHING ELSE IS IN PEREZ'S LUGGAGE. THERE SHOULDN'T AND CAN'T BE ANY MISTAKES.
MEOWWW
READY, RTCFQ-72
READY.

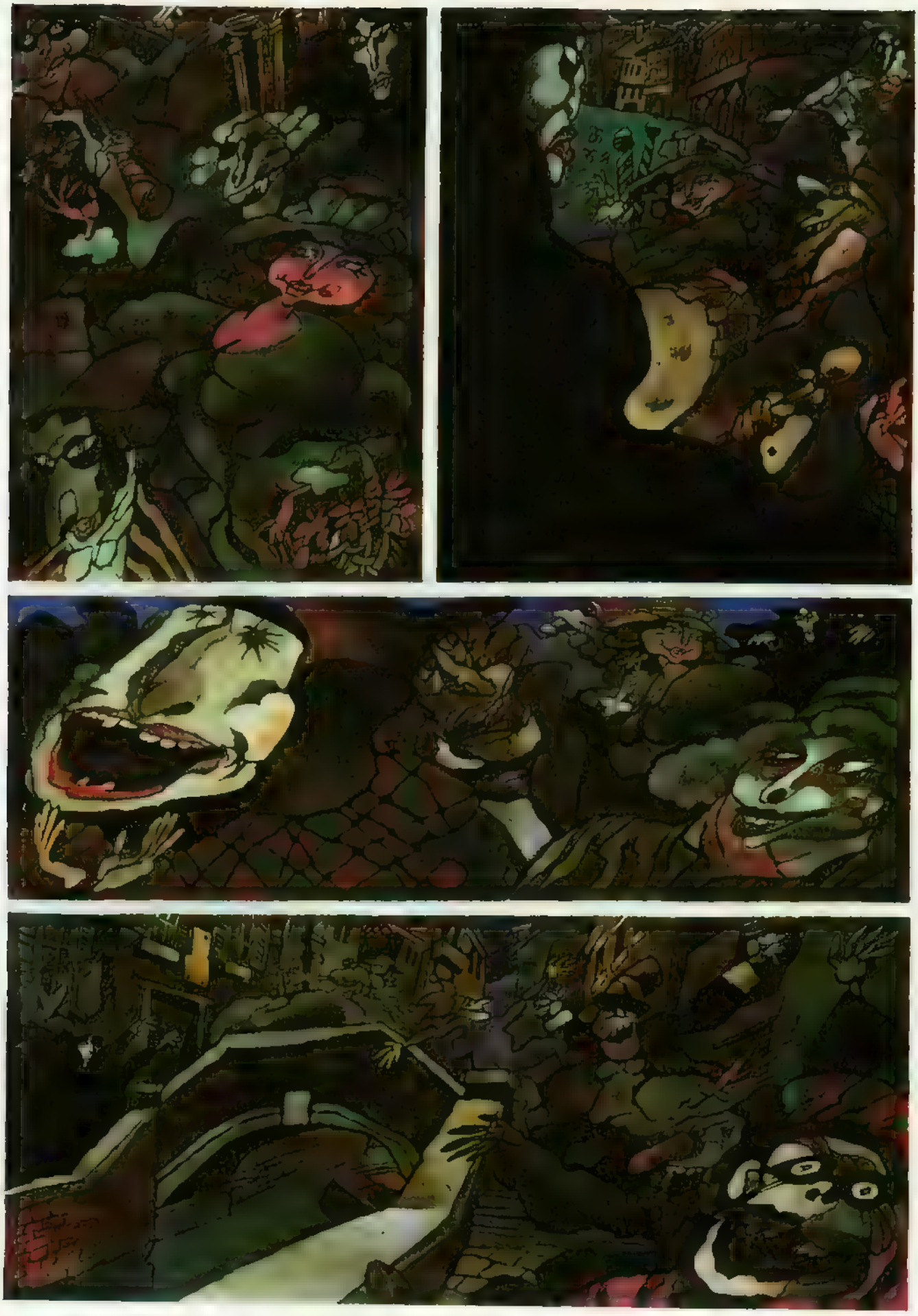
WHOOAAA WHOOA
WC
SHIT, THAT WAS CLOSE! WHAT IF THE JOHN WAS OCCUPIED!
COM-PARTMENT 51....
COMPARTMENT 56-57....
56 57
SLAM!

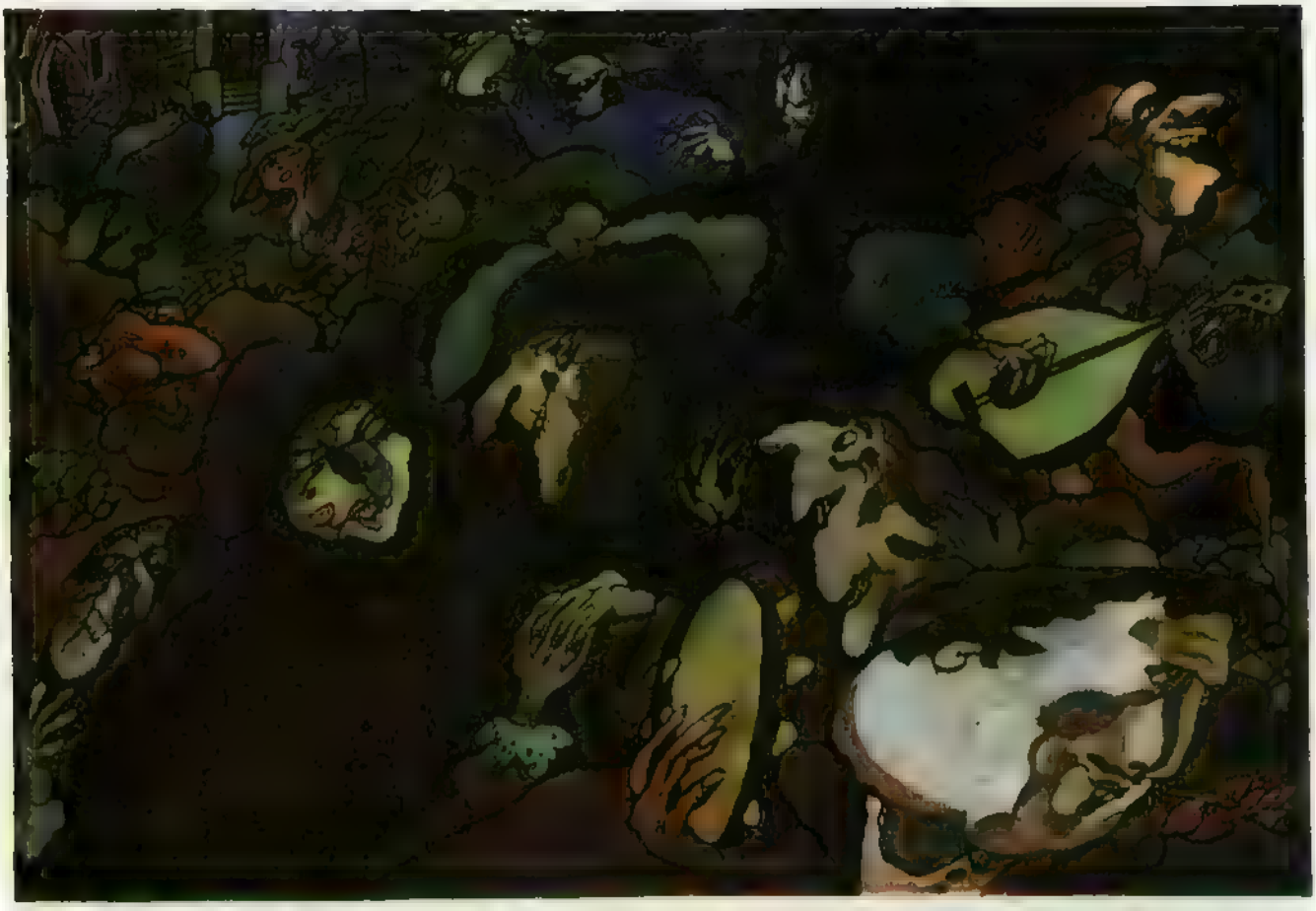
¿¡OOOOH!?
¿¡EEEEH!?
¡¿?!
A WOMAN... WITH ???
HELP!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
GODDAMN TINNY!

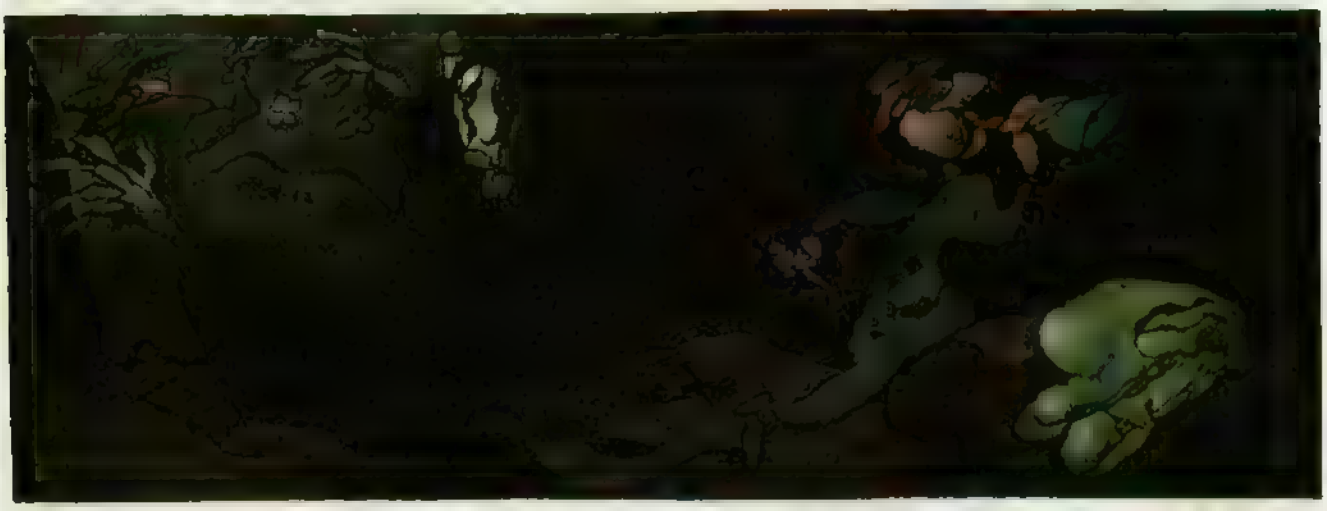
OH, GOD!!!

HIGHEST, THE TIME-SUIT AND ALL OF THE EQUIPMENT HAS COME BACK, BUT WITHOUT ATCFQ-7 AND....
GOOD... VERY GOOD, TINNY!
THE POLITIMES WILL BE ON OUR TAILS SHORTLY
YOUR PARDON, HIGHEST, BUT JUAN PEREZ ASKED WHAT HE SHOULD DO NOW
JUAN PEREZ? WHO'S THAT?
ATCFQ-7'S SUBSTITUTE
OH, YES, TO BE SURE SEND HIM TO THE MIDDLE EAST I NEED SOME CONTROL OVER THE OIL-PRODUCING COUNTRIES. GIVE HIM A SHORT CONTRACT TO START WITH. OH, AND ONE MORE THING, TINNY....
YES, HIGHEST?
OSIMENEZ
ARE YOU SURE WE SUPPRESSED ATCFQ-7'S GREAT GRANDPARENTS ON THAT TRAIN?
YES, THERE IS NO DOUBT. THE MISSION IS NOW COMPLETE. THERE IS NO WAY ATCFQ-7 COULD HAVE EVER BEEN BORN
VERY GOOD, TINNY.
I AM GLAD TO...
... BE RID OF THAT INEPT FOOL. WHAT A CHUMP!
MEOWW
THE END

Story and drawings by Alberto Breccia







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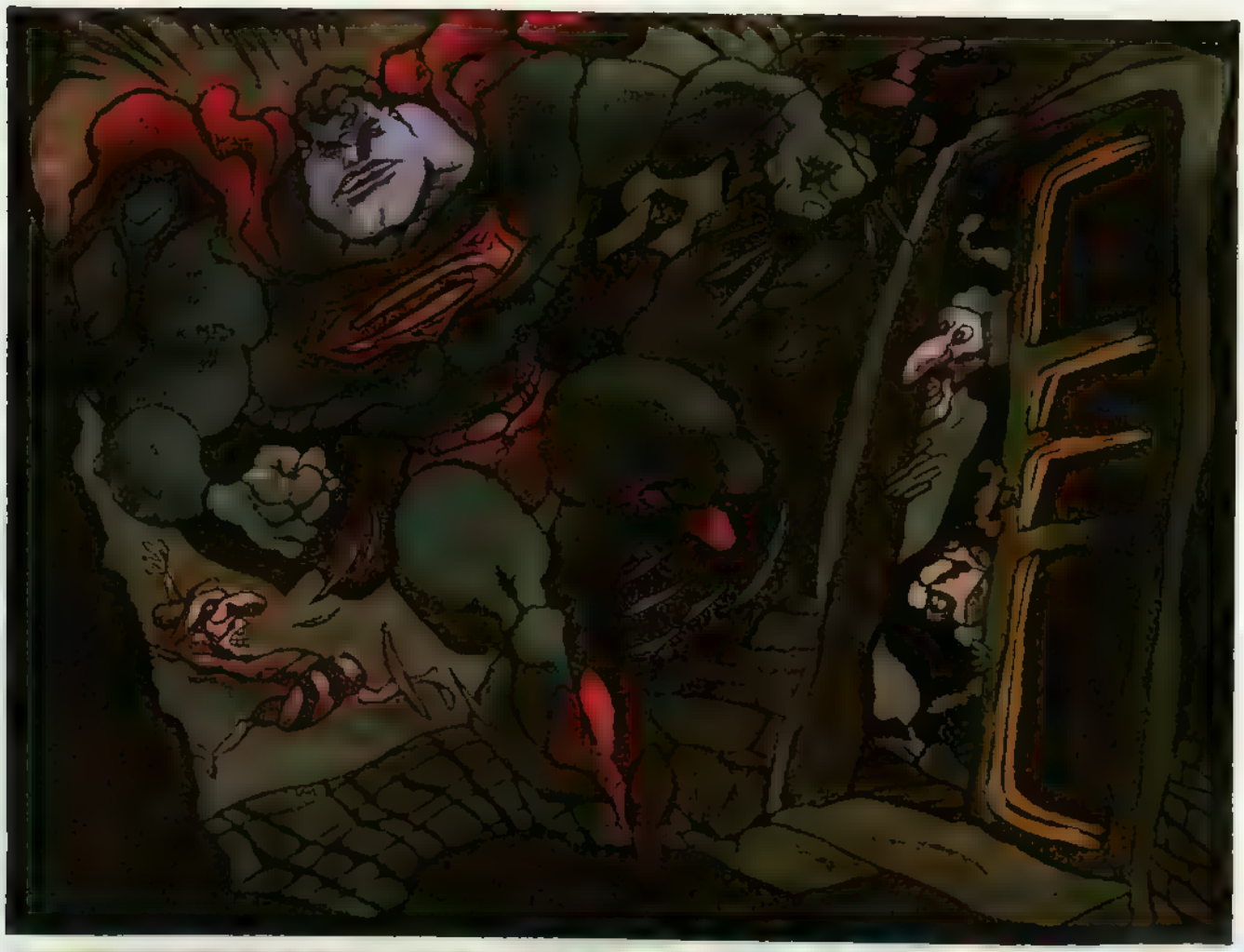
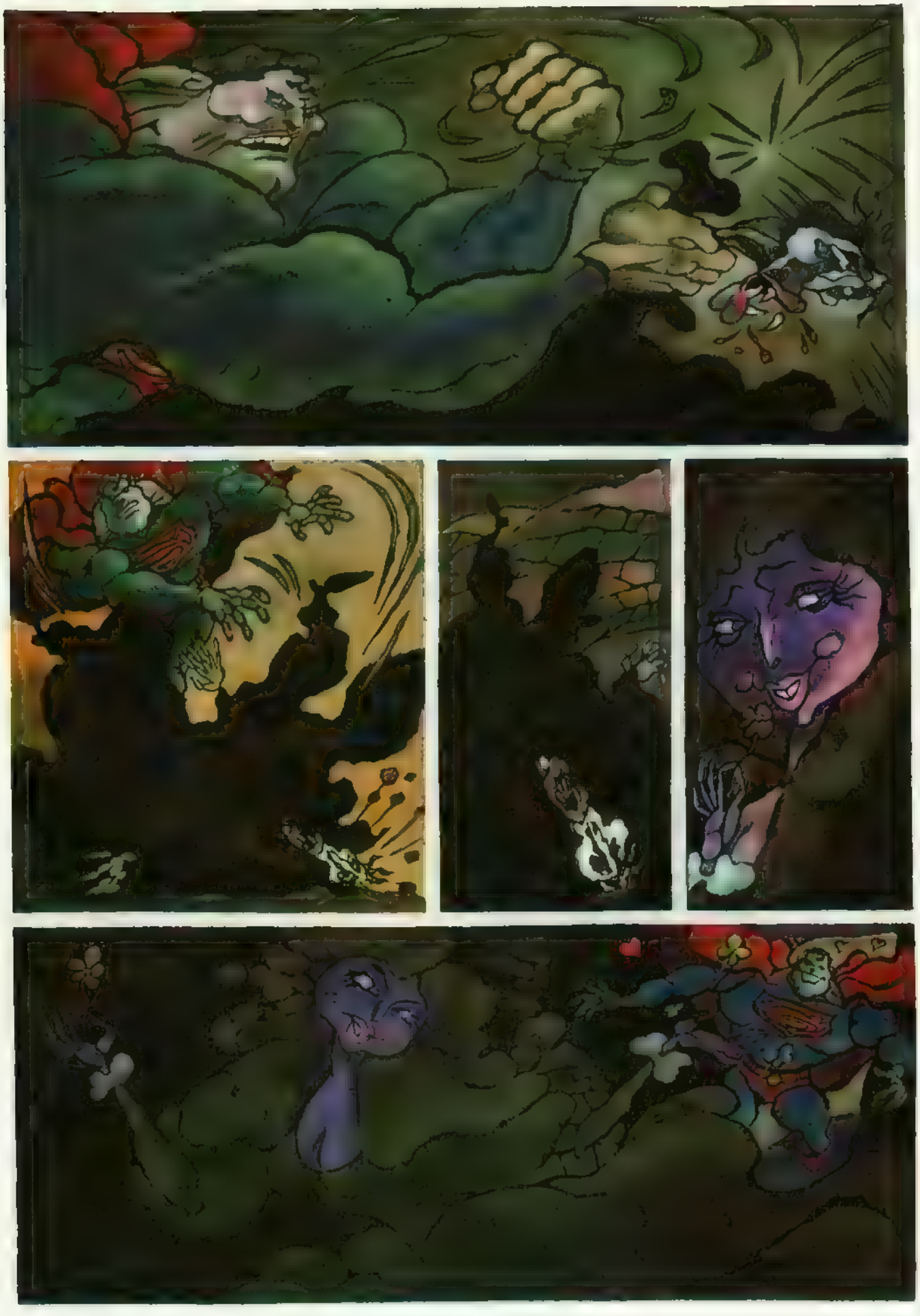
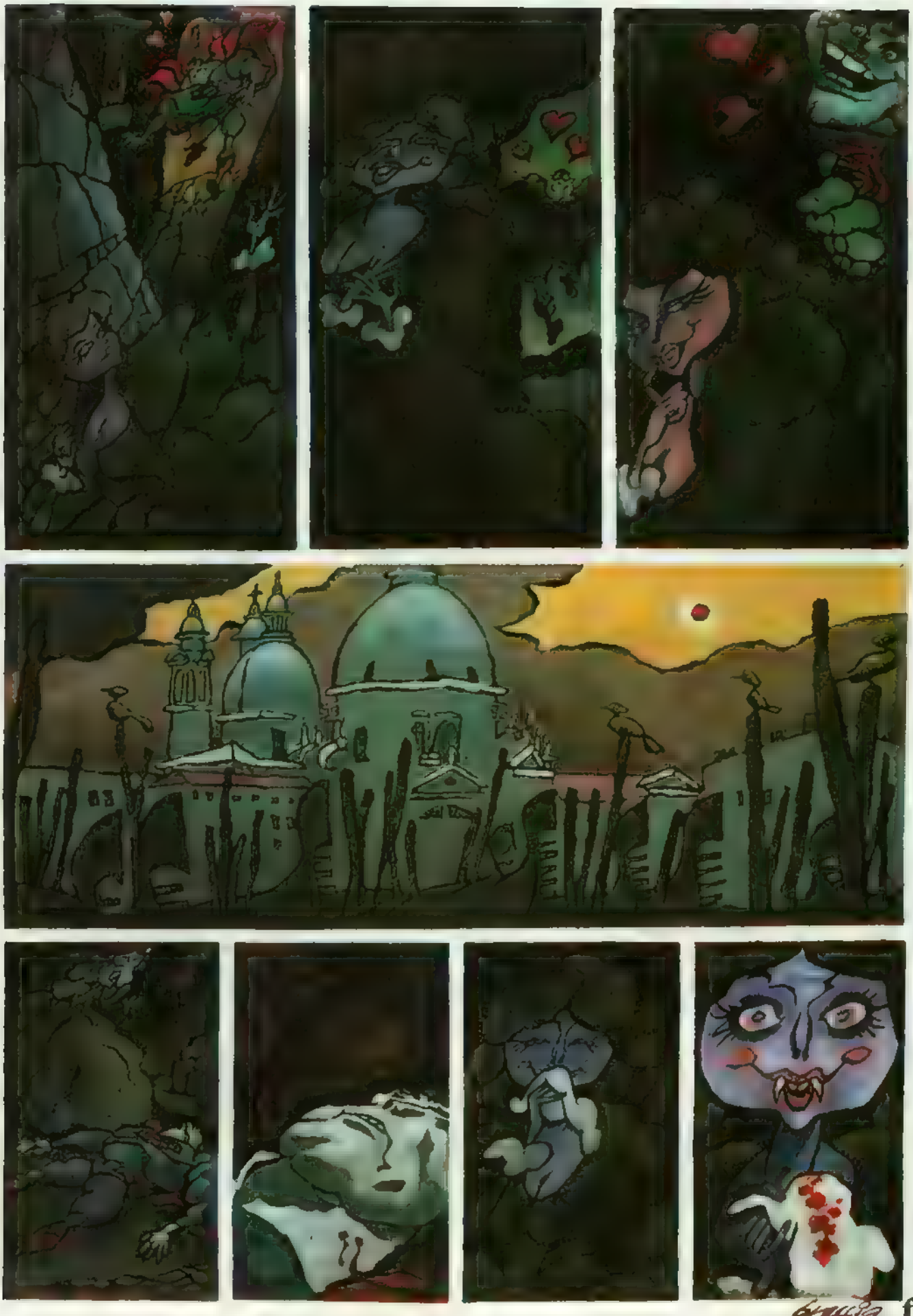





fin

I ♥ THE EARTH

IT'S SAD TO HAVE KNOWN THE EARTH....
VERY SAD TO HAVE LIVED THERE, ONLY TO NEVER SEE IT AGAIN.
IT'S ALL A DREAM NOW. MY ILLUSION HAS BECOME A REALITY. HOW BEAUTIFUL THE EARTH IS. OH, AND HOW THE EARTHLINGS ARE SO DAPPER AND THEIR BRAINS SO BEAUTIFUL
THEY ARE THE BLESSINGS OF THE STARS... THE GLORY OF SPACE... THE KINGS OF CREATIONS!
THEY ARE MAGNIFICENT!

Written by CARLOS BUIZA/Art by ALFONSO AZPIRI

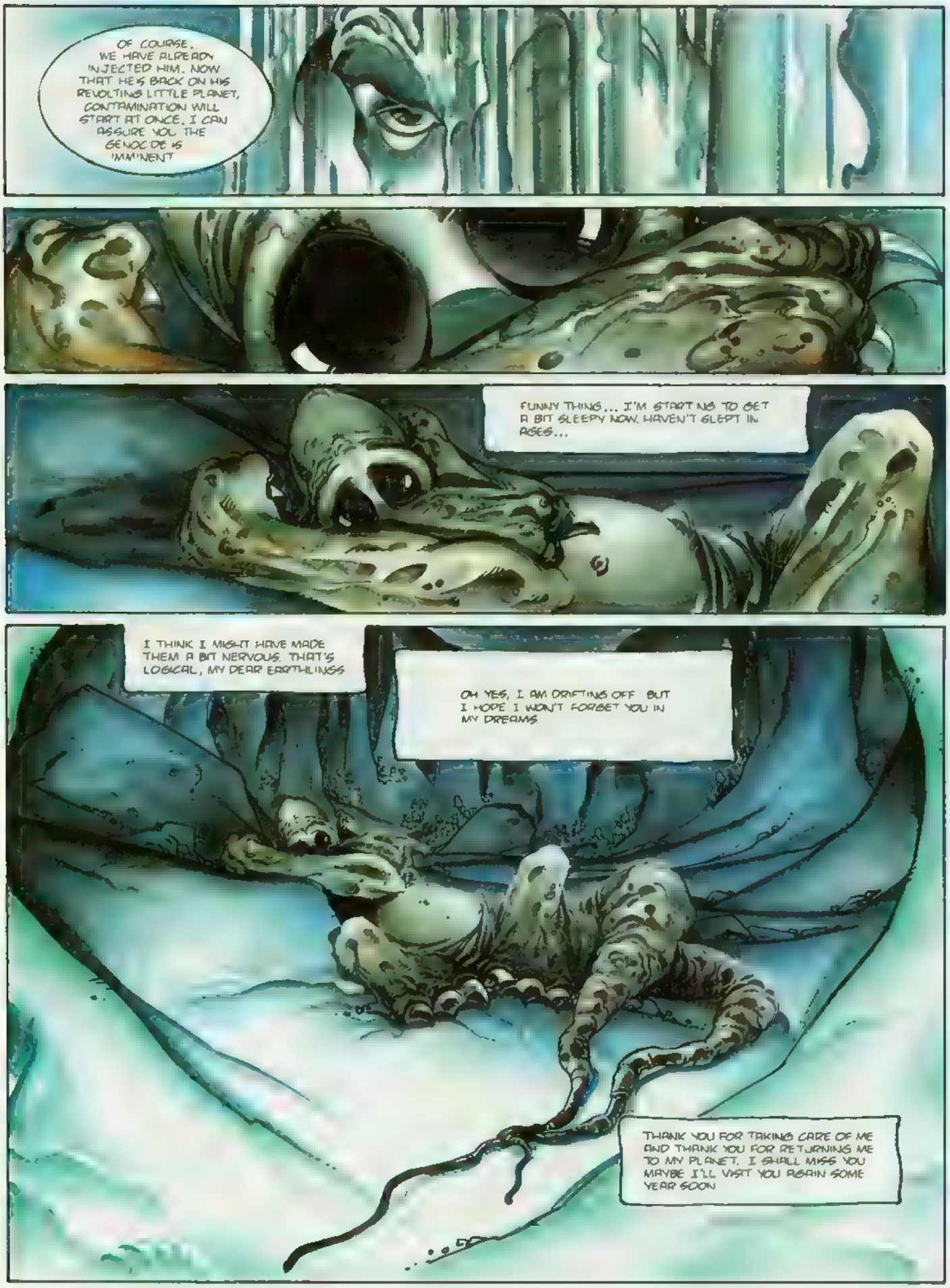
I CAN HEAR THE ICY POLAR POLKI WIND ROARING THROUGH MY CAVE. IT IS NOTHING LIKE THE GENTLE BREEZE I FELT ON EARTH
THIS IS A COLD, MALICIOUS, EVIL PLACE
AND WE SHALL HAVE TO REMAIN HERE FOR AT LEAST 00 YEARS OHHHHH IT'S SOOOO COLDDD
AND SPACE, ANOTHER WONDER WE SHALL NEVER BE ABLE TO OBSERVE FROM HERE. THIS UNHOLY ATMOSPHERE IS ALWAYS WRAPPED IN CLOUDS THIS PLACE IS IMPERVIOUS TO THE SUN
AND THE FLIGHT TO EARTH WAS MARVELOUS!
THE EARTHLINGS WERE SO FRIENDLY!

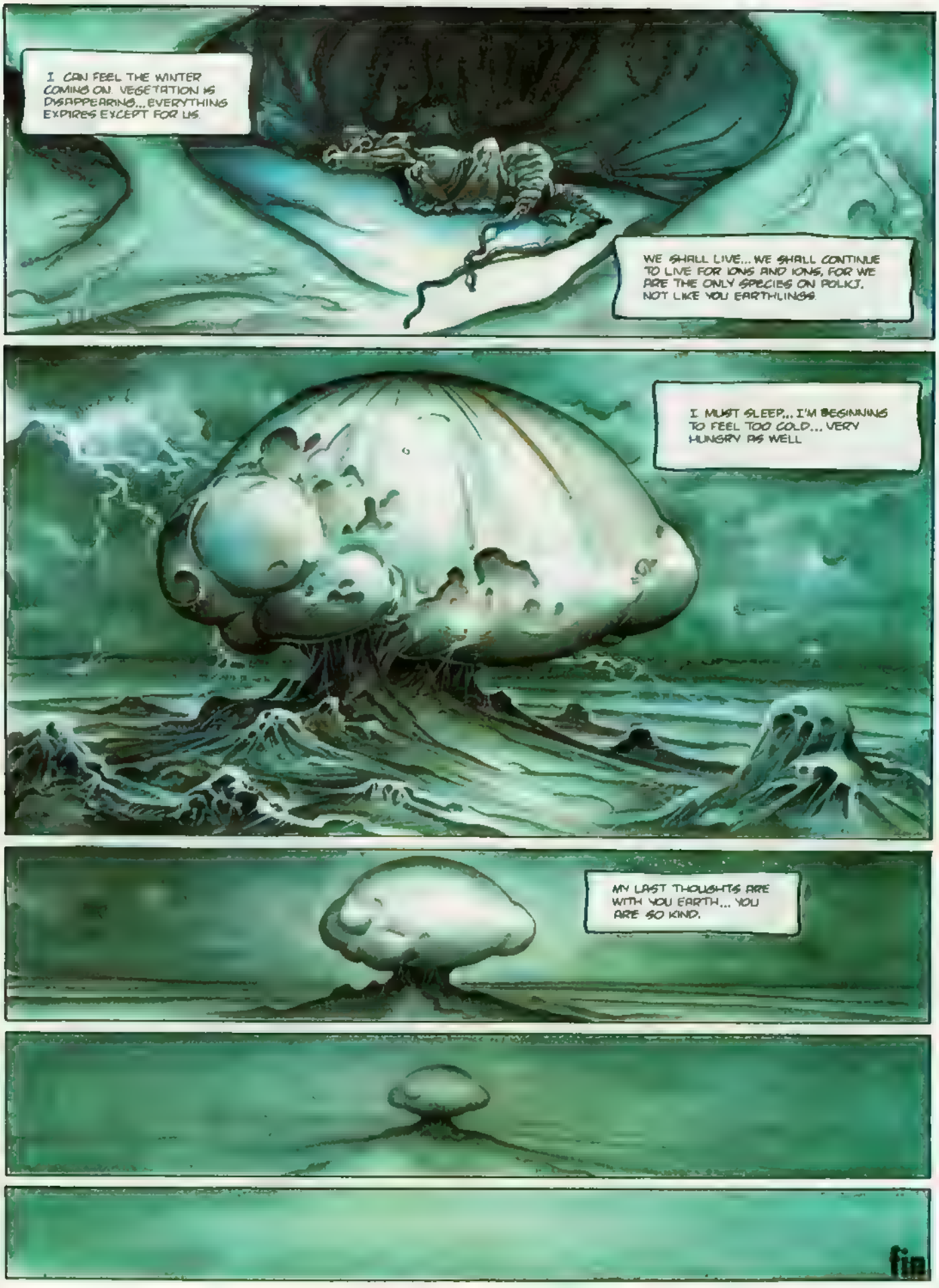
DURING THE LONG TRIP TO THEIR PLANET, THEY BUILT A SPECIAL DWELLING JUST FOR ME!
I GUESS MY BODY ISN'T COMPATIBLE WITH THEIR ATMOSPHERE
AND OF COURSE, MY BODY IS UGLY AND MONSTROUS. WHAT WITH ITS WRINKLES AND LUMPS!
MY... THE WIND SOUNDS EVEN STRONGER NOW. WE'LL FREEZE... OUR BODIES DON'T GENERATE ENOUGH WARMTH. SLEEP RARELY COMES UNDER THESE CONDITIONS.
IN A WAY, I'M GLAD THAT I DON'T SLEEP MUCH... I HAVE MORE TIME TO THINK OF THEM

WHEN EARTH FIRST APPEARED ON THE TELECAST SCREEN--WHEN I SAW IT GLIMMERING LIKE A GEM IN BLACK SPACE--SOMETHING INSIDE OF ME WENT ALL FUNNY
IT'S ROUNDNESS AND TEXTURE SENT SHIVERS DOWN MY SPINE. I KNEW THEN, WHAT REAL LOVE WAS LIKE.
AFTER A SHORT TRIP, WE CAME TO A CRYSTAL PALACE. EVERYTHING THERE WAS TRANSCENT . CLEAN...SHINY! HOW COULD I EVER EXPLAIN IT TO MY PEOPLE? THEY'LL NEVER UNDERSTAND!

YOU ALL LOOKED AFTER ME SO WELL.
YOU WERE ALWAYS AROUND WHEN I NEEDED YOU
I WANTED SO OFTEN TO TELL YOU HOW I FELT FOR YOU...
BUT I COULDN'T FIND THE WORDS
YOUR VOICES WERE SO SOFT SO ANGELIC!

WELL HERE WE ARE ON THIS AWFUL OVER POPULATED PLANET. ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF COLD ... ANOTHER 100 YEARS OF SWELTERING HEAT
A MASS OF CLOUDS THAT LET NOTHING PEEK THROUGH.
AND THOSE 100 YEARS OF COLD.
EVERY 100 YEARS ...COLD.. COLD . COLD...
AND THOSE HORRIBLE LITTLE BEASTIES!?
WELL, THEY JUST SLEEP THROUGH THE ENTIRE 100 YEARS ... IF THEY DIDN'T, THEY'D STARVE FOR SURE.
WE HAVE ANOTHER TEN YEARS FOR THE STAR TO COMPLETE ITS HYDROGENIZATION PROCESS, AND FIVE FOR THE DRUG TO SPREAD. AFTER THAT, WE'LL HAVE ANOTHER FIVE YEARS FOR THEM TO ELIMINATE THEMSELVES COMPLETELY.
AND THE RESULT? YOU'RE SURE IT WILL BE POSITIVE?


OF COURSE, WE HAVE ALREADY INJECTED HIM. NOW THAT HE'S BACK ON HIS REVOLTING LITTLE PLANET, CONTAMINATION WILL START AT ONCE. I CAN ASSURE YOU, THE GENOCIDE IS IMMINENT
FUNNY THING... I'M STARTING TO GET A BIT SLEEPY NOW. HAVEN'T SLEPT IN AGES...
I THINK I MIGHT HAVE MADE THEM A BIT NERVOUS. THAT'S LOGICAL, MY DEAR EARTHLINGS
OH YES, I AM DRIFTING OFF. BUT I HOPE I WON'T FORGET YOU IN MY DREAMS.
THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF ME AND THANK YOU FOR RETURNING ME TO MY PLANET. I SHALL MISS YOU. MAYBE I'LL VISIT YOU AGAIN SOME YEAR SOON


I CAN FEEL THE WINTER COMING ON. VEGETATION IS DISAPPEARING... EVERYTHING EXPIRES EXCEPT FOR US.
WE SHALL LIVE... WE SHALL CONTINUE TO LIVE FOR IONS AND IONS, FOR WE ARE THE ONLY SPECIES ON POLKI. NOT LIKE YOU EARTHLINGS.
I MUST SLEEP... I'M BEGINNING TO FEEL TOO COLD... VERY HUNGRY AS WELL
MY LAST THOUGHTS ARE WITH YOU EARTH... YOU ARE SO KIND.
fin

SLOT MACHINE

by Horacio Altuna

AHHH..
I DON'T FEEL VERY WELL I'M BOUND TO DIE SOON
BLOODY BASTARDS
IT'S THEM
THEY'RE WITCH DOCTORS!
ALL THOSE CURSES THE OPPOSITION HAS PUT ON ME
IT MUST BE THEM.
FANTASMAS
THEY ALL HATE MY POWER, BUT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND

YES, DEATH IS STARING ME IN THE FACE.
AND THEY REALIZE IT
DO YOU HATE ME, TOO ?
NOO NO, SIR!
LIAR!
NO!
YOU ALL LIE!
EVERY-ONE OF YOU BASTARDS!
THERE'S NO ONE I CAN TRUST I AM SURROUNDED BY BRUTUS!
THEY HARASS ME.. THEY WAIT FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT...
AND THEN THEY TRY AND ATTACK
I M NOT READY TO DIE I MUST WRITE A MAGNIFICENT EULOGY
BUT WHO.
WOULD READ IT ?
THE PEOPLE HERE FEEL NOTHING BUT HATRED TOWARDS ME...
I'LL HAVE TO READ IT
2

WHO'S THERE?
TAKE THAT!
BANG!
OH, MY GOD, WHAT'VE I DONE?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, YOUR EXCELLENCY?
WHAT HAP
NOTHING! JUST WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WERE ALERT!
YOU CAN GO NOW
YES, SIR
ALRIGHT THEN. ..AWAY WITH YOU
JUST.. JUST ME!
YOU'RE REALLY WORN OUT, GENERAL LOOK AT YOUR EYES
PERHAPS, I'LL HAVE ALL THE MIRRORS REMOVED FROM THE PALACE
THERE ARE DAYS I ONLY SEEM TO SEE ENEMIES.

AS FOR MY FUNERAL SPEECH, I'LL HAVE TO GIVE IT MYSELF I'LL DRIVE PEOPLE TO TEARS WHEN THEY HEAR THE RECORDING
CHRIST ALL THIS HARPING ON MY DEATH IS GETTING ME DEPRESSED
IT'S THESE NIGHTMARES THAT ARE GETTING ME
WHY HAVE THEY SUDDENLY BEGUN TO HAUNT ME ?
THEY'RE GHOSTS, PEOPLE FROM MY PAST
THAT'S ALL, JUST GHOSTS I'LL AMUSE MYSELF AWHILE....
DRUGS SODA
HAIR CUT

CHARGE! CHARGE!
KILL THE DICTATOR!
THE GHOSTS ARE BACK
THEY ARE TAKING THE PRESIDENT'S PALACE
AND THE GUARD'S NOT FIGHTING THE ASSAULT!

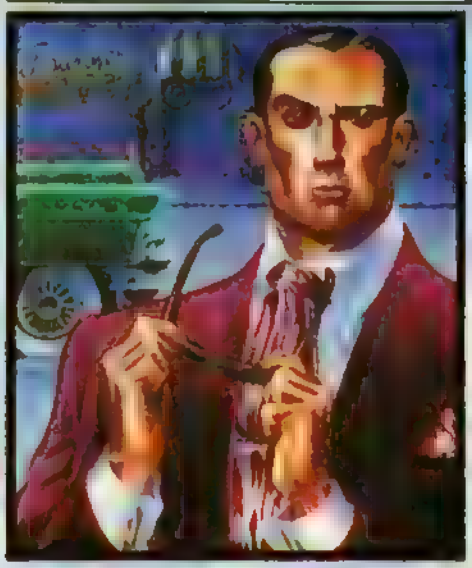
FOR ONCE I DON'T SEE THEIR UGLY FACES I SHALL KEEP MY EYES CLOSED
GAINING ENTRANCE TO THE PALACE WAS EASY ENOUGH!
FIND THE TYRANT, THEN KILL HIM!
THEY'LL NEVER GET ME!
HE MUST PAY FOR HIS SINS!
CURSE THEM!
I'LL BEAT THEM YET! I CAN HEAR THEM, BUT I DON'T SEE THEM!
HERE'S THE DEMON! HE'LL DIE FOR HIS TREACHEROUS REGIME!
DIE, YOU SON OF A BITCH!
TAKE THAT, AND THAT!
DIE, DOG!
MY GOD, THIS DREAM...
...HAS BECOME A REALITY.
I KNEW ALL ALONG.
CARLOS TRILLO
HORACIO ALTUNA
©
FIN

PRIVATE SCREENING

PARIS, FRANCE

"LET'S MEET AT THE MOVIE HOUSE ON THE RUE MONSIGNY." HIS HEART WAS THUMPING FASTER AND FASTER AS HE NEARED HIS DESTINATION. RAOUL DEPLATINE WAS ANXIOUS...HE KNEW HE WOULD DIE SOON MAYBE HE'D DIE BY IMPLOSION, LIKE AN OLD TV SET.

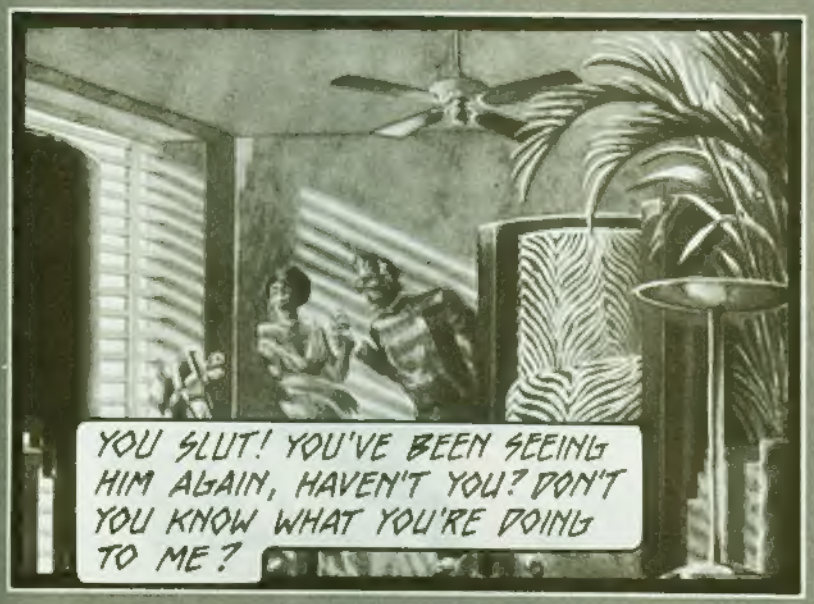
BUT TODAY, HAIR SLICKED BACK AND DRENCHED IN PERFUME, HE DIDN'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT THE INEVITABLE.



HE ENTERED THE DARK LOBBY OF THE PALADIUM WITH SWEATY PALMS AND A DESPERATELY DRY MOUTH.
DID YOU KNOW HER? OH MY GOD... WHAT A DISASTER!

HURRY UP! THE INTERMISSION IS OVER! THE SECOND HALF IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.
YES, SHE'S BEEN BADLY BASHED UP, THE POOR WOMAN. DO YOU THINK WE'RE STUPID? SOMEBODY SAW THE TWO OF YOU TOGETHER YESTERDAY.
ARE THERE MANY PEOPLE INSIDE?
WELL, NO, I BELIEVE THERE IS ONLY ONE OTHER PERSON --A WOMAN--IN THERE. THIS WAY, PLEASE!
HIS ANGUISH WAS AT IT'S PEAK-- HE FELT STRANGE AND HOPED HE WASN'T GOING TO GET SICK.
RAOUL!
DEATHMOBILE 2017
A force not to be reckoned with!
THERE SHE WAS....
3

DARLING, I'M SCARED. WE CAN'T GO ON MEETING HERE!


YOU SLUT! YOU'VE BEEN SEEING HIM AGAIN, HAVEN'T YOU? DON'T YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING TO ME?

I'M WARNING YOU, I'M NOT GOING TO STAND IT ANYMORE!

HURRY UP, PLEASE, PLEASE! I'M AFRAID!
YOU! CHECK THE BATHROOMS! YOU! CHECK THE AISLES! WERE THERE MANY PEOPLE INSIDE?
ONLY A MAN AND A WOMAN! THEN ANOTHER MAN CAME IN AND HE WAS HOLDING A GUN IN HIS HAND! JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU. A FEW MOMENTS LATER, WE HEARD A SHOT. I CALLED YOU RIGHT AWAY!

NOTHING!
I LOOKED ALL OVER, CHIEF, THERE'S NO ONE IN HERE!
I CAN'T FIND ANYTHING EITHER, CHIEF!

I'M SO EMBARRASSED, I DON'T KNOW WHAT COULD'VE HAPPENED. PLEASE FORGIVE ME! I'M FLABBERGASTED!!!

THE END

FIN

I'M SINGING IN THE RAIN, JUST SINGING IN THE RAIN. WHAT A WONDERFUL FEELING, I'M HAPPY AGAIN!
READY.